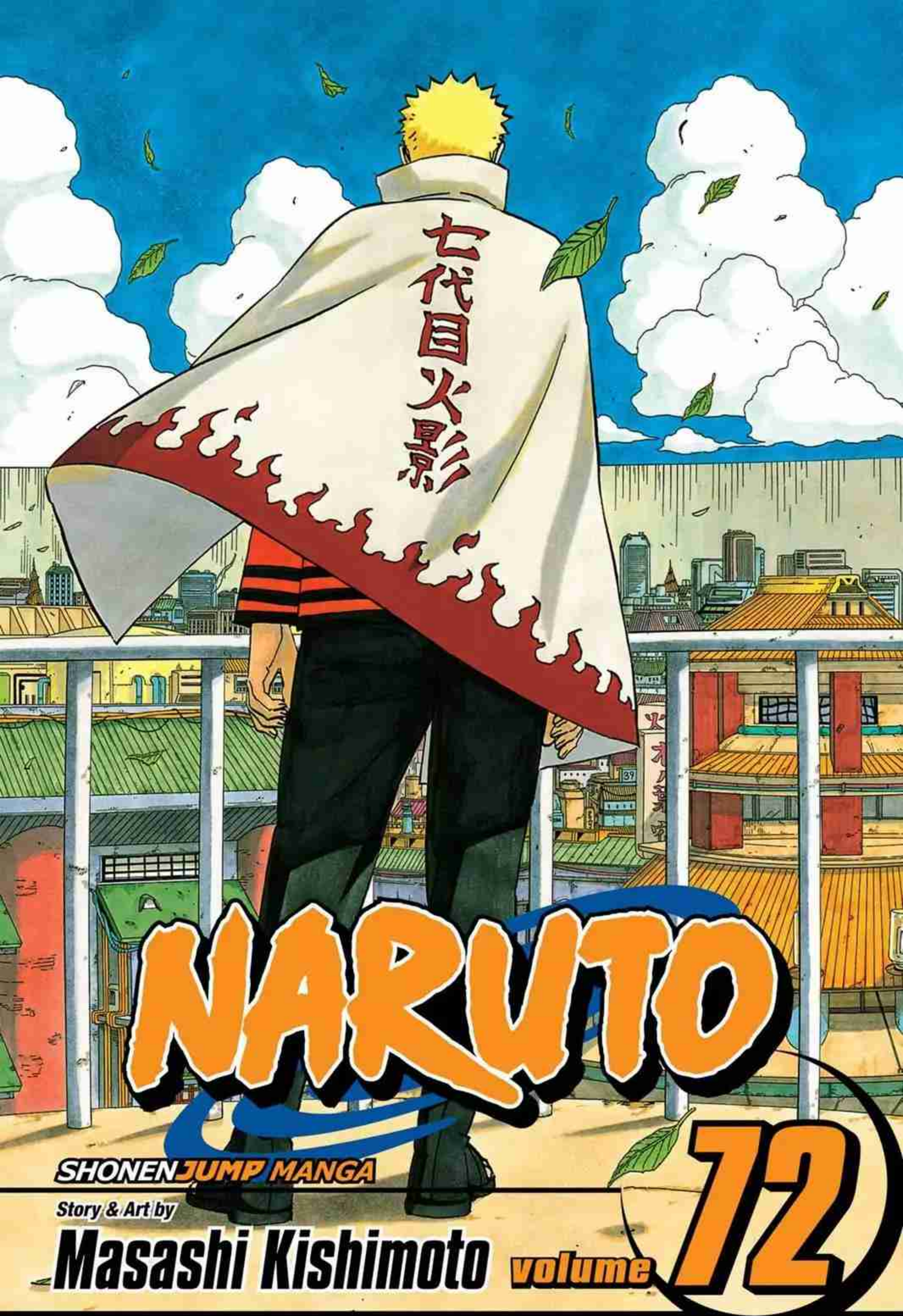
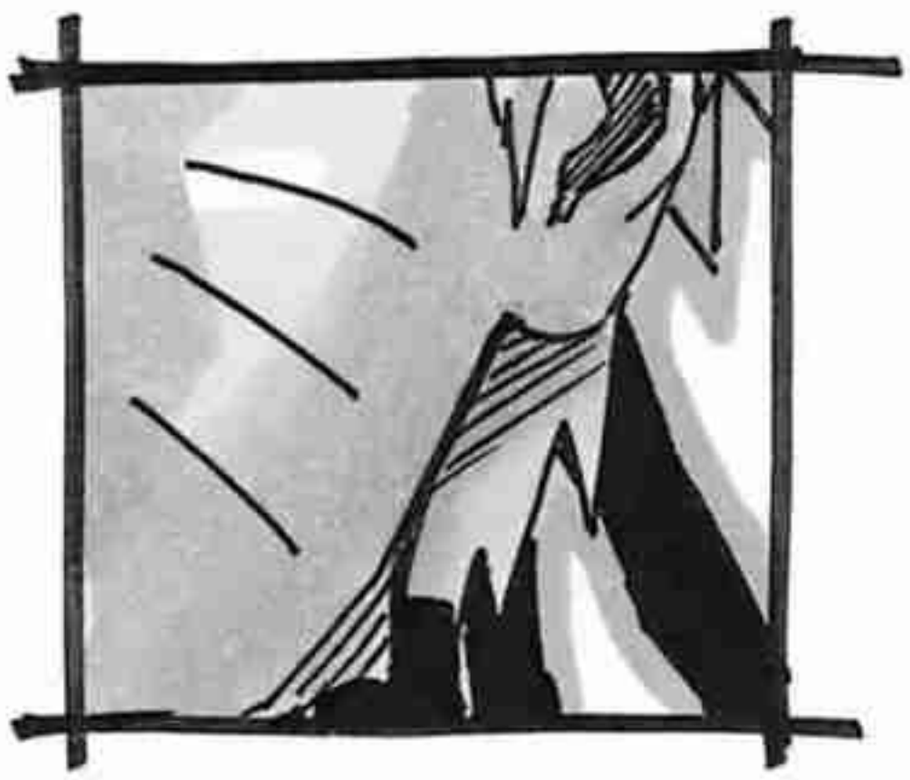

七代目火影
NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 72



岸本斉史

This is the final volume.

Thank you so very much for your support these past 15 years.

I'd be honored if, in the future, you occasionally recall that there once was a character named Naruto.

Well then, please enjoy the conclusion of Naruto.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2015

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 72
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation/Mari Morimoto
Touch-up Art & Lettering/John Hunt
Design/Sam Elzway
Editor/Alexis Kirsch

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NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO

七代目火影

VOL. 72

UZUMAKI NARUTO

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Naruto うずまきナルト

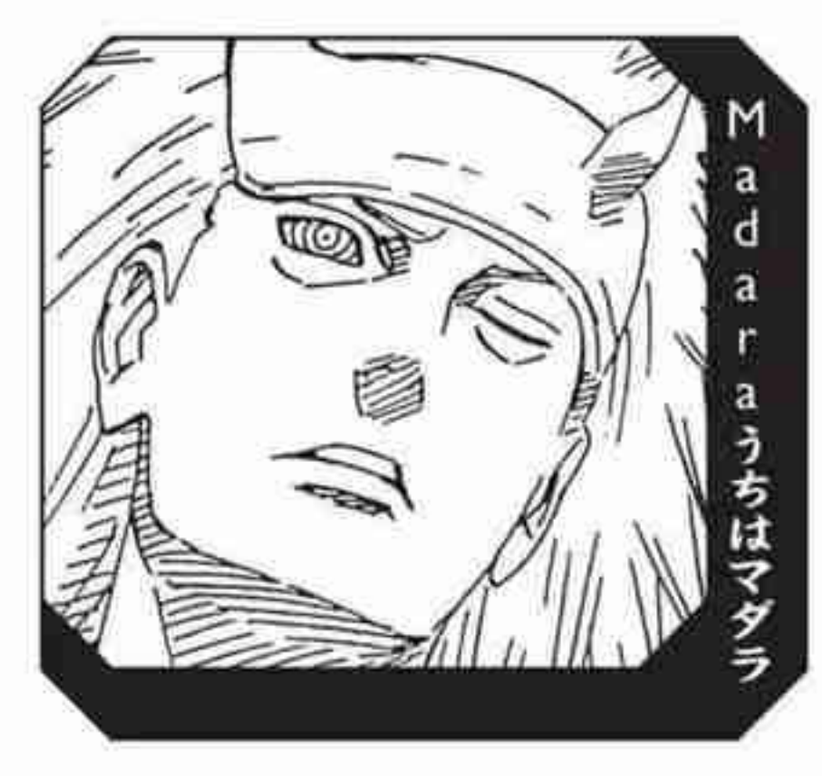
Sasuke うちはサスケ

Kakashi はたけカカシ

Sakura 春野サクラ

Six Paths Sage of 六道仙人

Kaguya 大筒木カグヤ


Madara うちはマダラ

Obito うちはオビト

THE STORY SO FAR...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the Village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja along with his classmates Sasuke and Sakura. They grow and mature through countless trials and battles. However, Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance, leaves Konohagakure to seek Orochimaru and his power…

Two years pass. Naruto grows up and engages in fierce battles against the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki. And the Fourth Great Ninja War against the Akatsuki finally begins. Having regained a living body thanks to the Rinne Rebirth jutsu, Madara activates the Infinite Tsukuyomi and the people are sucked into a dream world. Immediately afterwards, Black Zetsu betrays Madara and revives the Rabbit Goddess Kaguya, who attacks Naruto and the others! Naruto joins forces with Sasuke and succeeds in sealing away Kaguya, but...?!

NARUTO

VOL. 72
UZUMAKI NARUTO

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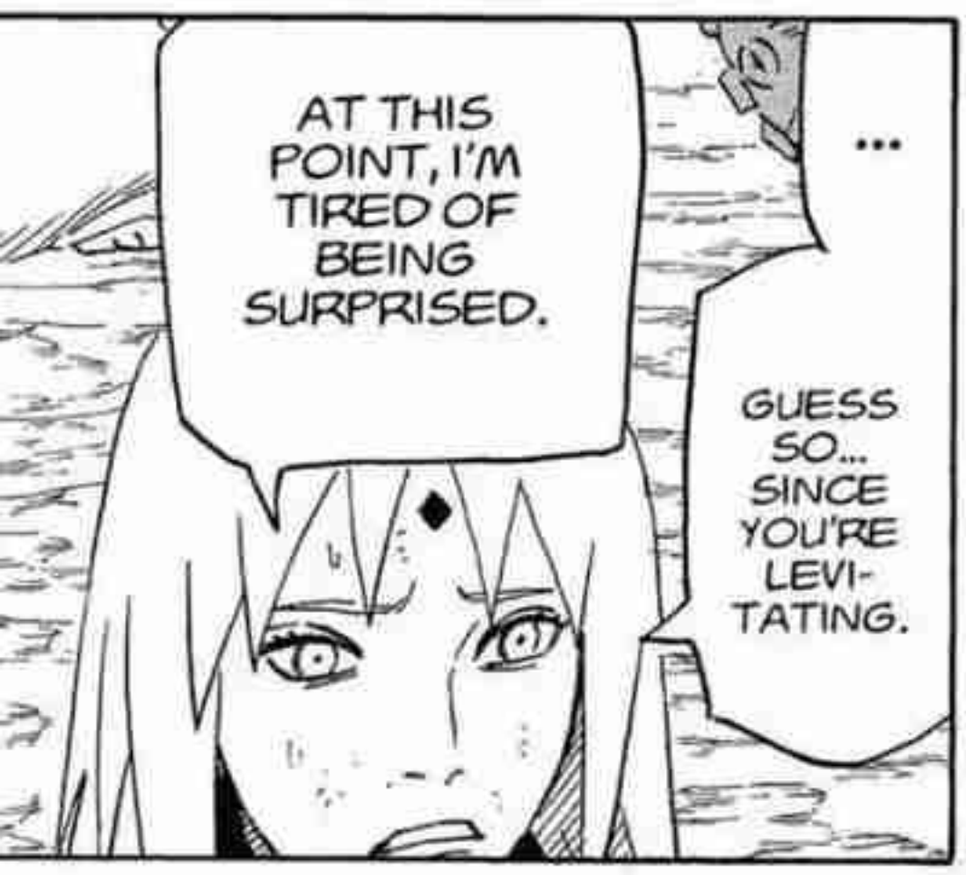
Number 691: Congratulations



IT WAS ALL THESE THREE... PLUS MANY OTHERS.

I CAN'T TAKE CREDIT. I HARDLY PLAYED ANY PART AT ALL.

...OH, NO.

...A FORMER FRIEND ALSO LENT ME STRENGTH.

BESIDES WHICH...

...YOU REMAINED NARUTO'S TEACHER... AND OBITO'S FRIEND.

DESPITE LOSING YOUR WAY...

OR ELSE YOU LIKELY WOULDN'T HAVE SUCCEEDED IN STOPPING MOTHER.

THAT IS WHY I SAID... GOOD JOB GUIDING EVERYONE.

!

SUMMONING THE PAST GOKAGE HERE...

...AND BRINGING US AND THE BIJU BACK FROM THAT OTHER DIMENSION...

SO... IT WAS YOU...

THAT TRULY WAS THE WORK OF GODS.

GOOD JOB GUIDING EVERYONE AND SEALING MOTHER AWAY.

YOU'RE HATAKE KAKASHI, EH.

...

UH... YES.

...?

...PERFORM SUCH GOD-LIKE ACTIONS.

YOU'RE PROBABLY THE ONLY PERSON WHO COULD...

YOU GOT HALF OF ME INSIDE YOU, REMEMBER ?!!

QUIT YELLING SO LOUDLY! I WASN'T LONELY AT ALL!!

I MISSED YOU!!

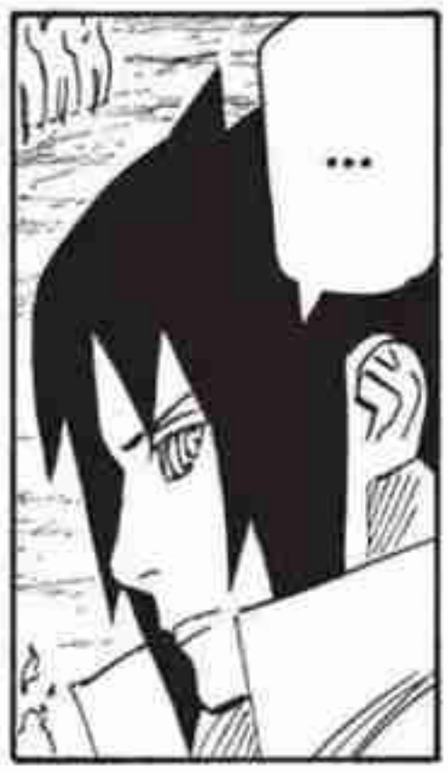
WERE YOU LONELY BEING SEPARATED FROM ME?!!

TROT

GWA HA HA HA HA!!

KURAMA !!

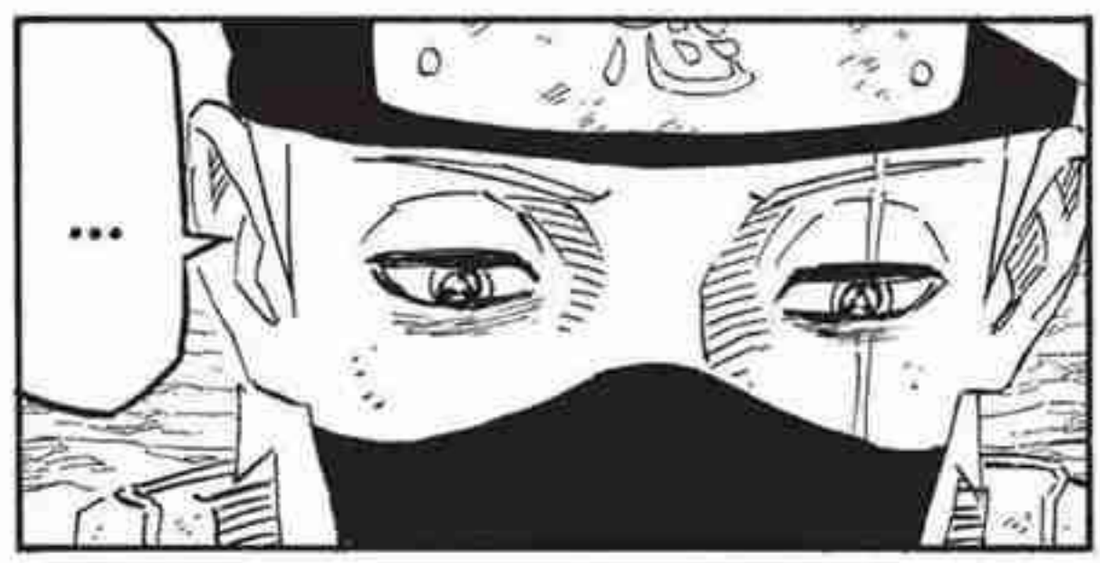
HEY!!



IS HE STILL...?
...

...THEN I SHALL ASK OBITO TO TELL ME THAT TALE, IN THE AFTERWORLD...
I SEE...

HE RESTORED OBITO TO HIMSELF.
EVEN OBITO'S TURNAROUND WAS NARUTO'S DOING...

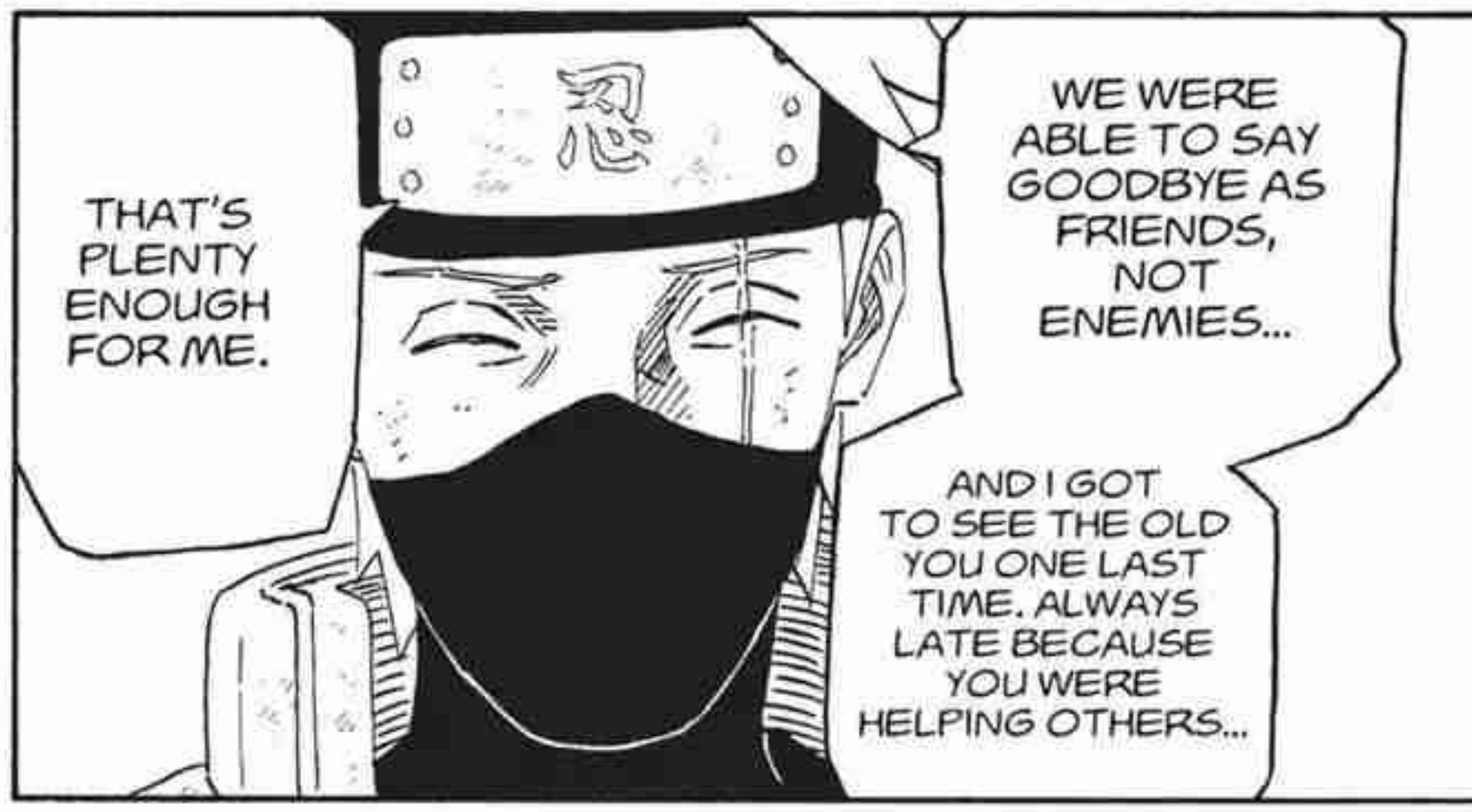

...

YEAH...
I OUGHT TO GET GOING.

...

I REALLY MADE A MESS OF THE SHINOBI WORLD...
SO MUCH THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO YOU IN PARTING...

...


THAT'S PLENTY ENOUGH FOR ME.
WE WERE ABLE TO SAY GOODBYE AS FRIENDS, NOT ENEMIES...
AND I GOT TO SEE THE OLD YOU ONE LAST TIME. ALWAYS LATE BECAUSE YOU WERE HELPING OTHERS...

...

THANKS, KAKASHI.
WSH...

YOU HAVE AN EXCUSE FOR BEING TARDY?

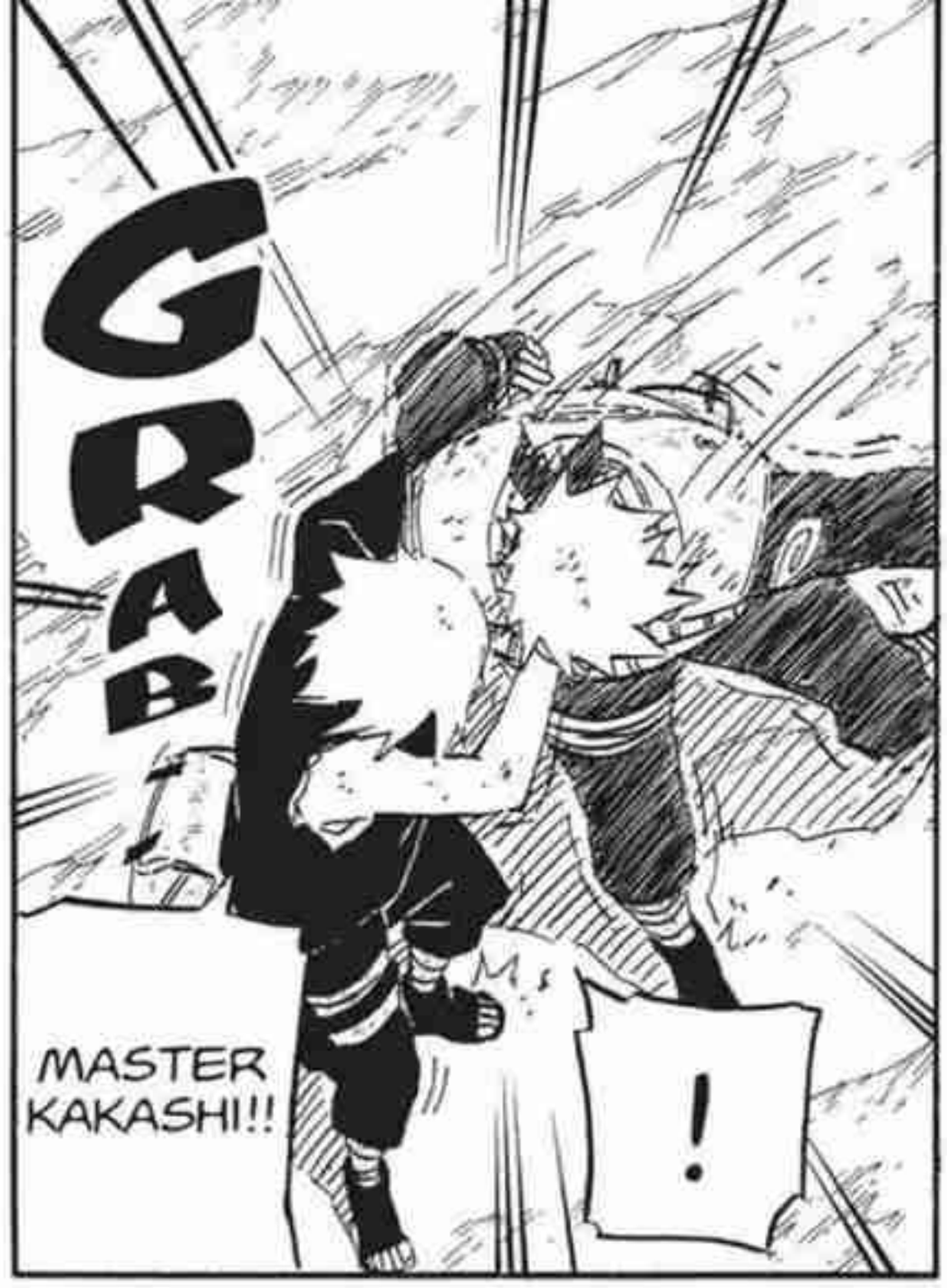
I'VE BEEN KEEPING RIN WAITING.
WELL THEN...
I'LL BE GOING.
ガシャン
ガシャン

I ALREADY TOLD HER I'D BE HELPING YOU.
...

WI
SP
SAME TO YOU.

I SEE...

OBITO...
THANK YOU...
WEEHooo


GRAB
MASTER KAKASHI!!
!

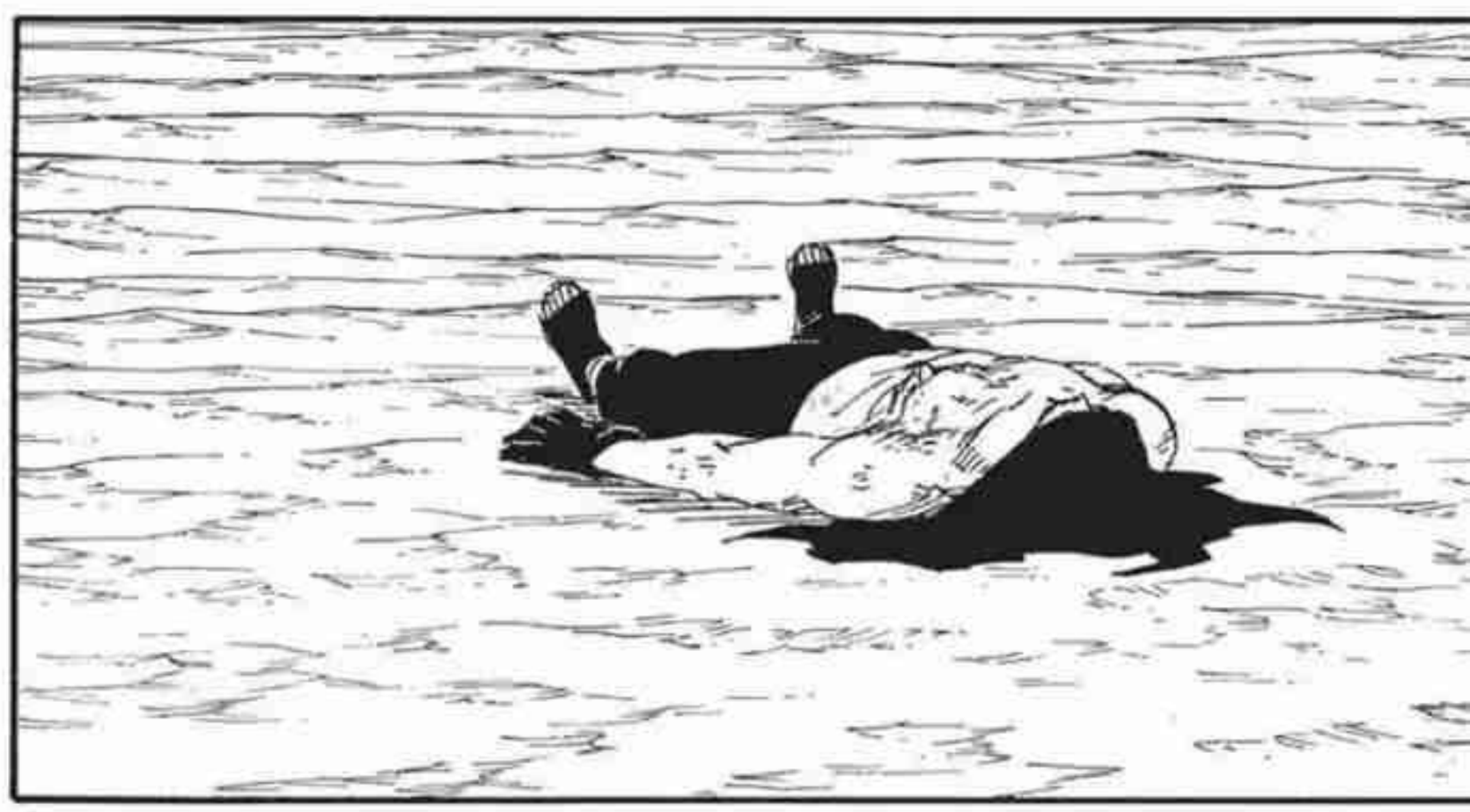
忍
FWMP

!

KAKASHI OF THE SHARIN-GAN IS NO MORE.
YEAH ...
MASTER KAKASHI, YOUR EYES...!

SORRY, SAKURA...
!

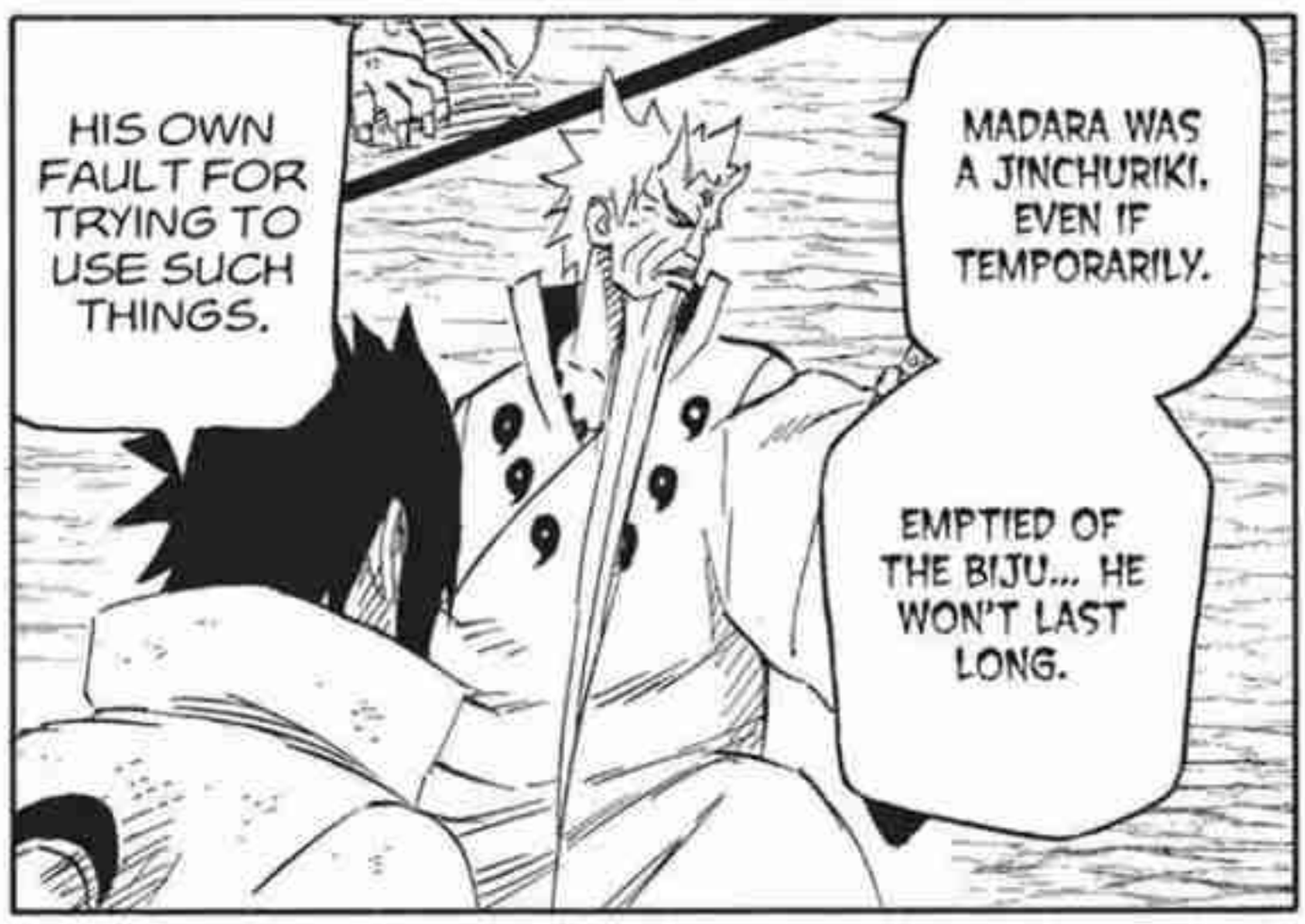
SHUP



SHUP...

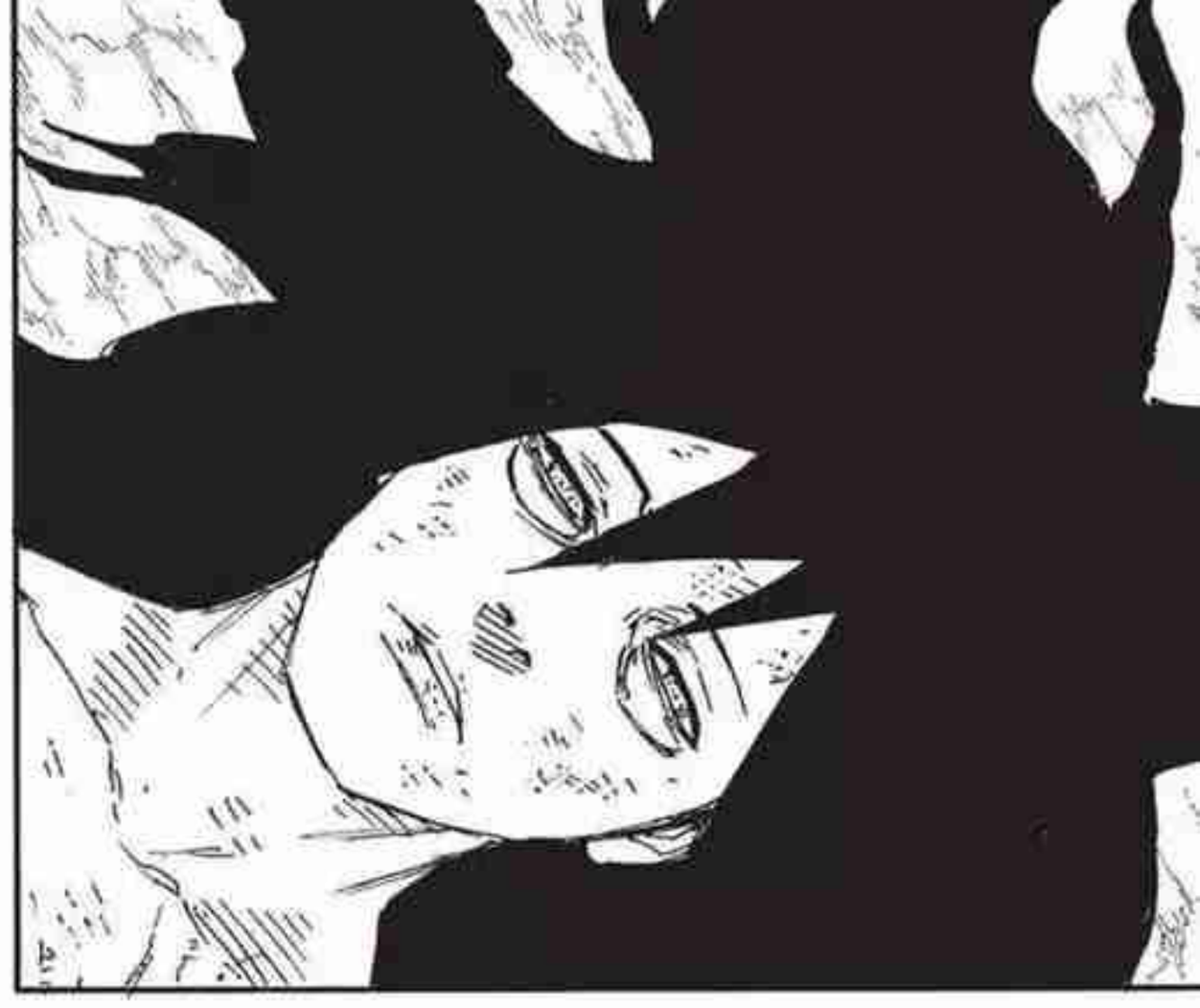
FSH...
?!

SASUKE... NARUTO... BEHOLD THE END OF YOUR PREDECESSORS.
...
WATCH CLOSELY NOW.

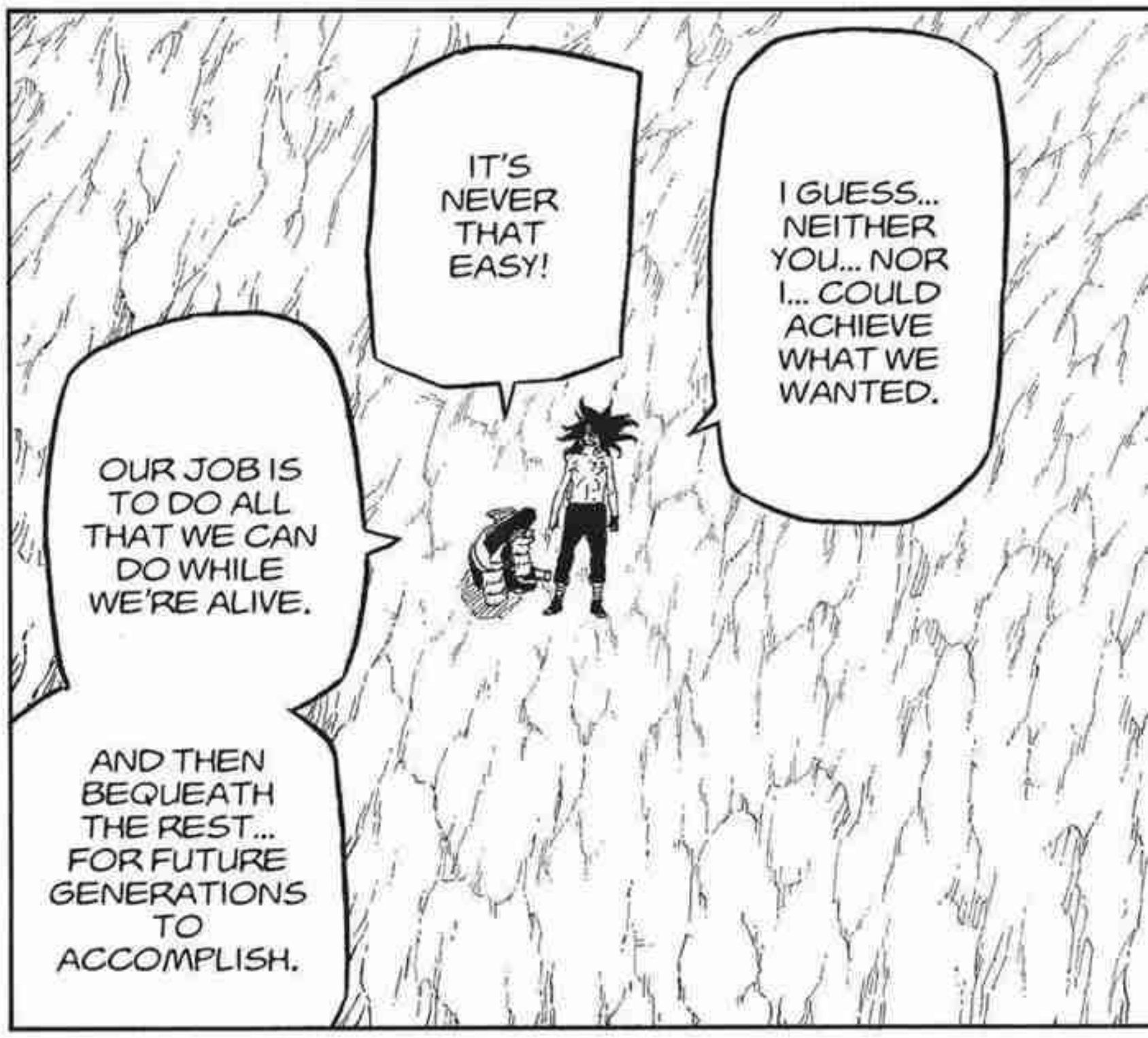

HIS OWN FAULT FOR TRYING TO USE SUCH THINGS.
MADARA WAS A JINCHURIKI, EVEN IF TEMPORARILY.
EMPTIED OF THE BIJU... HE WON'T LAST LONG.

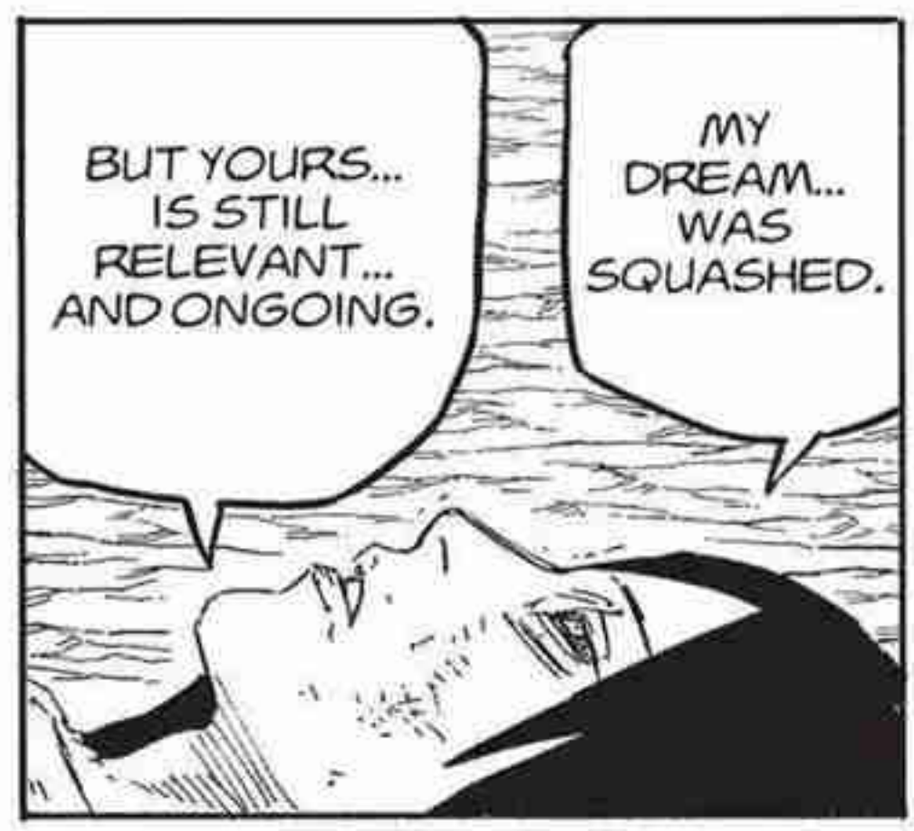
IT IS.
KLAK
THAT YOU... HASHIRAMA?

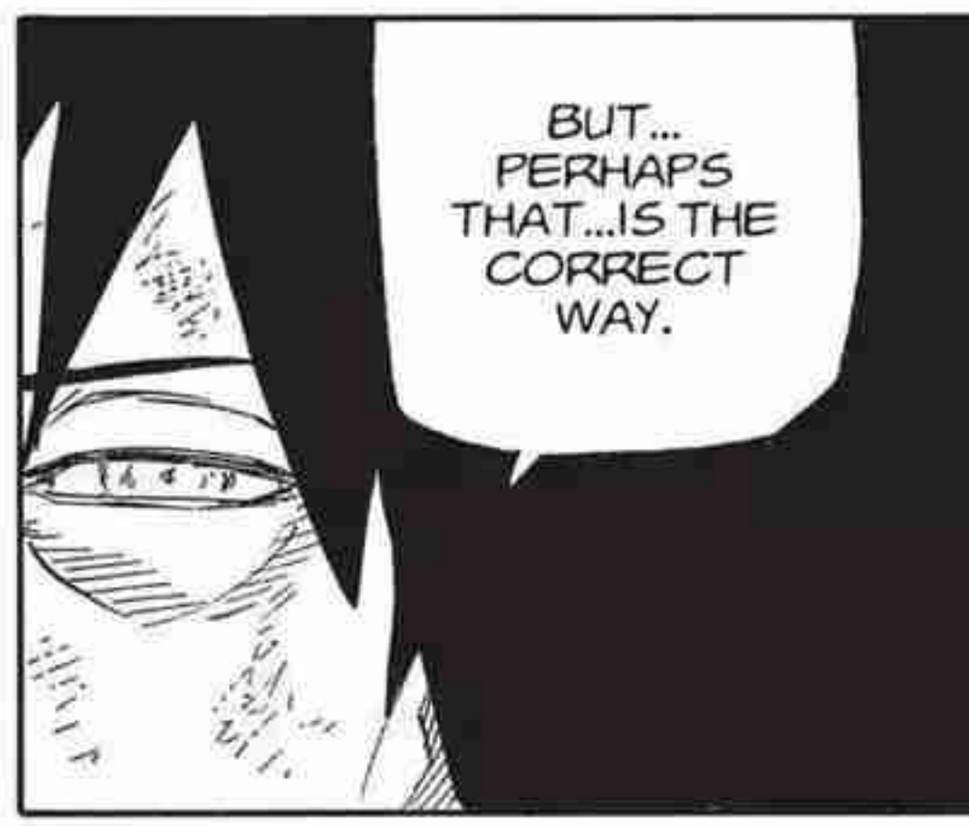
...

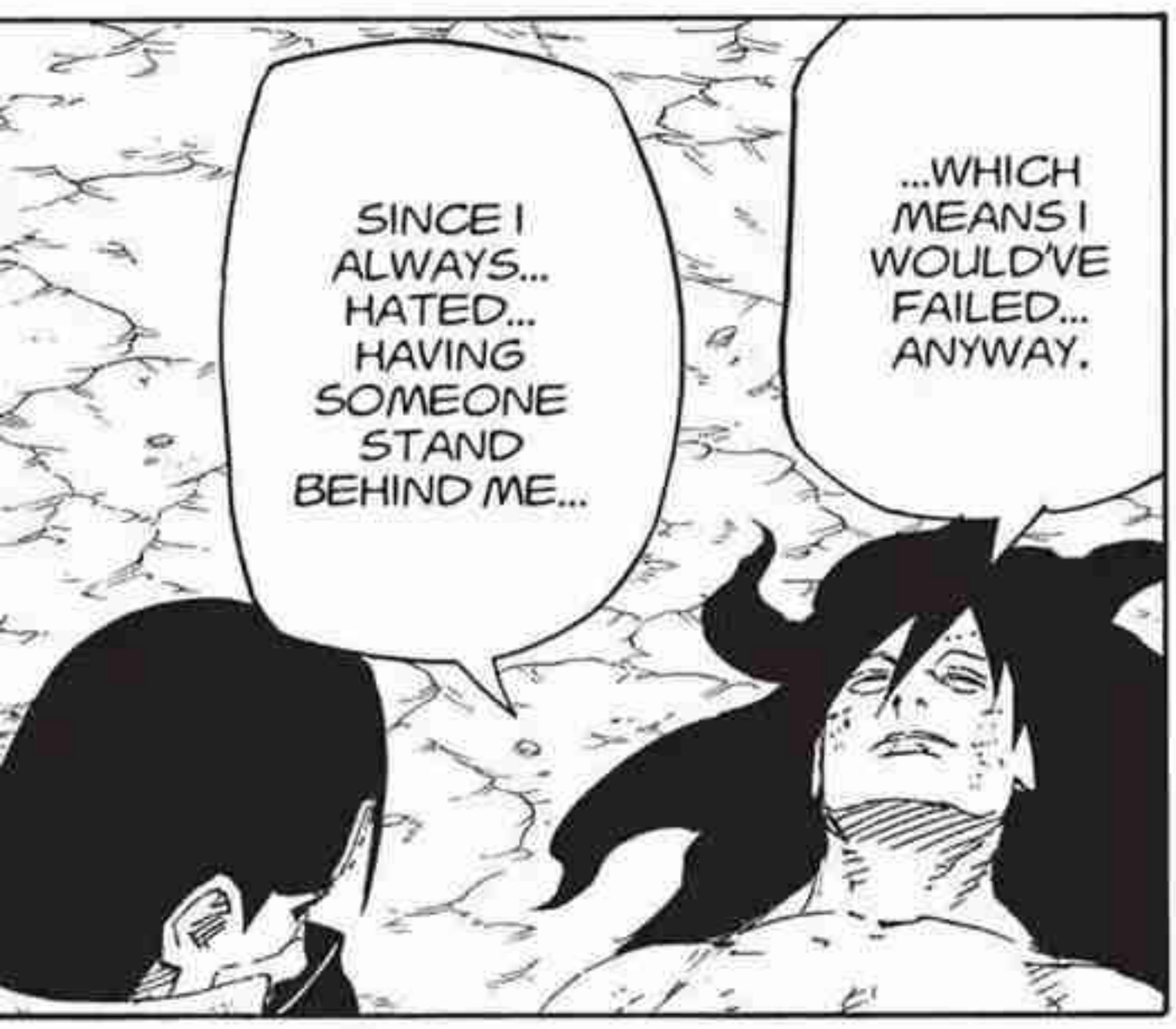


SO SIMPLISTIC... AS USUAL...
HEH HEH...
YOU... WERE... ALWAYS... OPTIMISTIC...

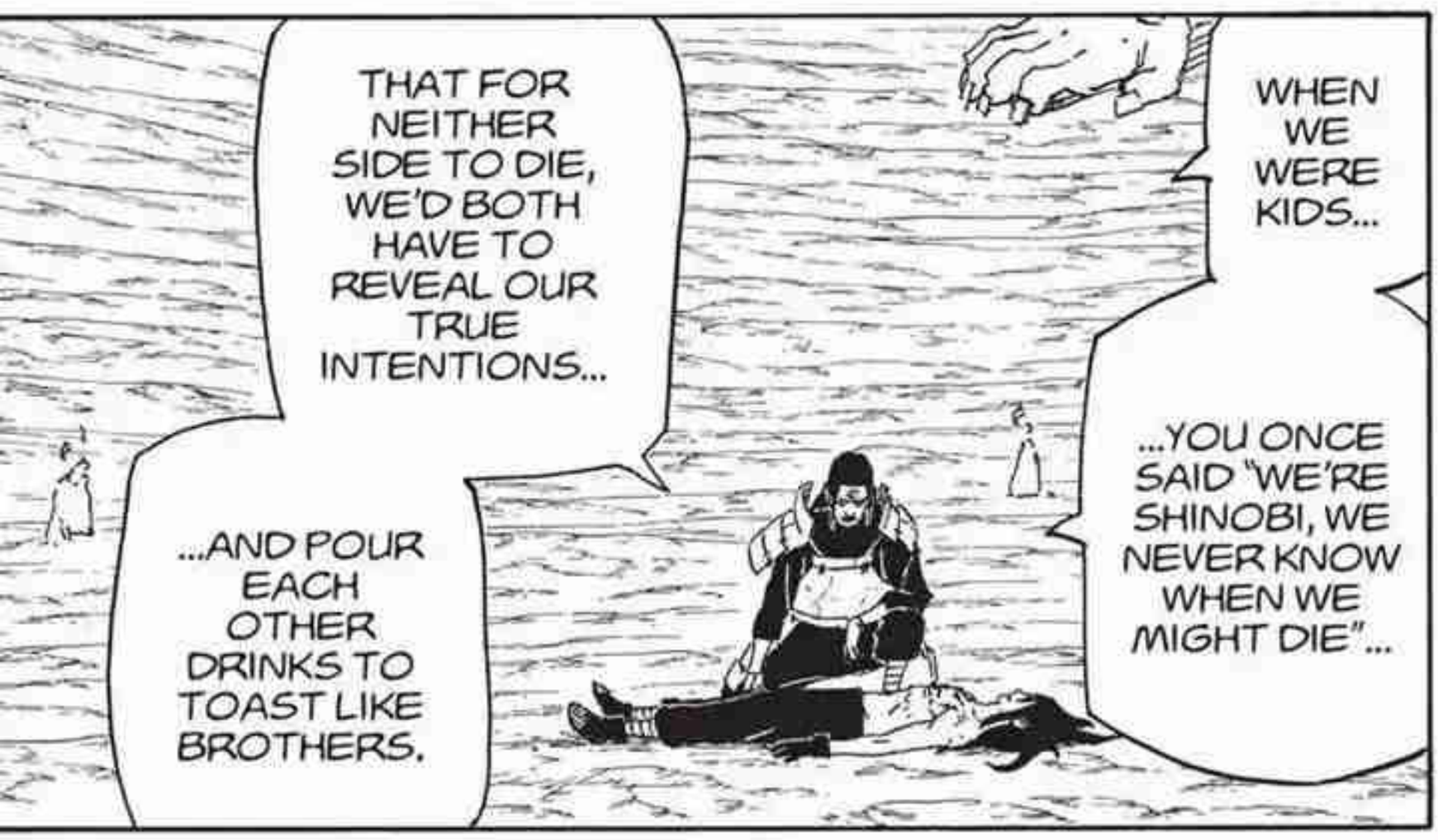

IT'S NEVER THAT EASY!
I GUESS... NEITHER YOU... NOR I... COULD ACHIEVE WHAT WE WANTED.
OUR JOB IS TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN DO WHILE WE'RE ALIVE.
AND THEN BEQUEATH THE REST... FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ACCOMPLISH.


BUT YOURS... IS STILL RELEVANT... AND ONGOING.
MY DREAM... WAS SQUASHED.


BUT... PERHAPS THAT...IS THE CORRECT WAY.


SINCE I ALWAYS... HATED... HAVING SOMEONE STAND BEHIND ME...
...WHICH MEANS I WOULD'VE FAILED... ANYWAY.

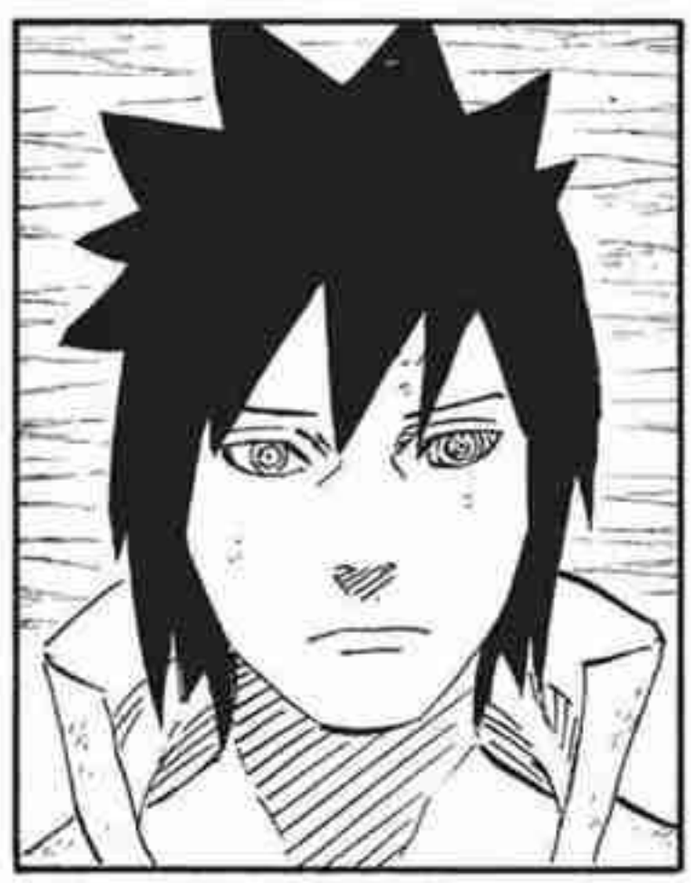
IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO CULTIVATE THOSE WHO WOULD COME AFTER US.
WE WERE BOTH TOO HASTY...
WE DIDN'T NEED TO FULFILL OUR DREAMS OURSELVES.

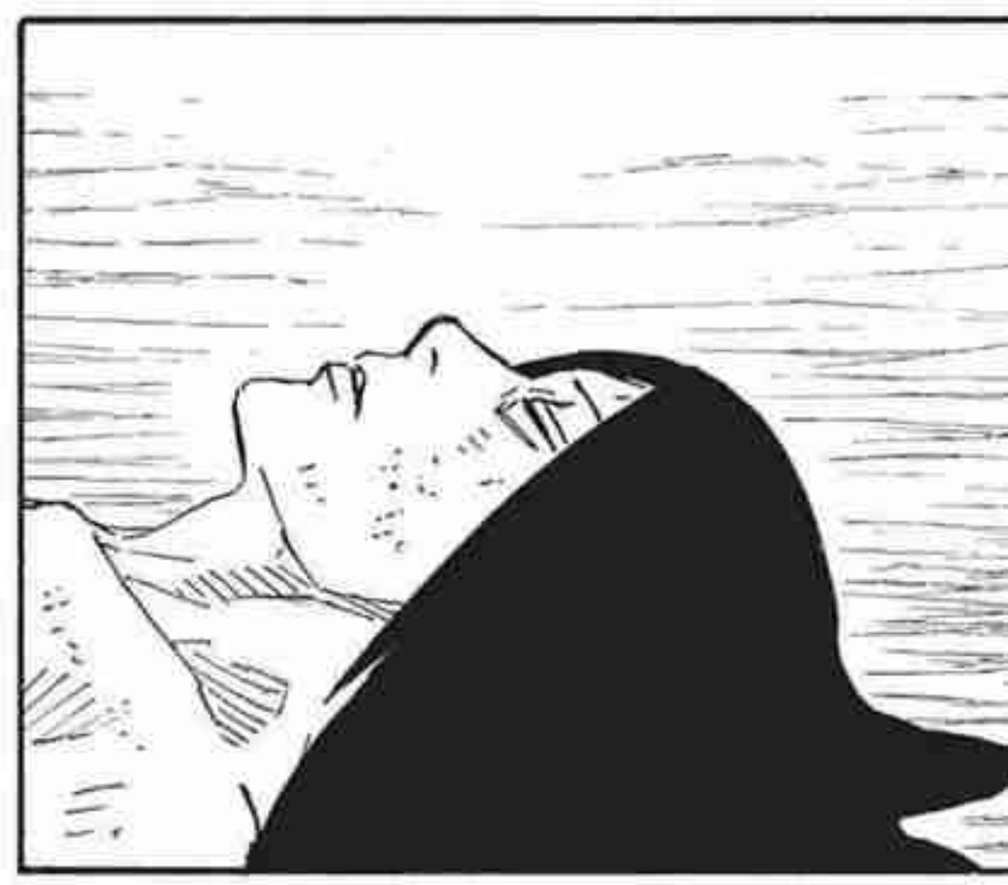

THAT FOR NEITHER SIDE TO DIE, WE'D BOTH HAVE TO REVEAL OUR TRUE INTENTIONS...
...AND POUR EACH OTHER DRINKS TO TOAST LIKE BROTHERS.
WHEN WE WERE KIDS...
...YOU ONCE SAID "WE'RE SHINOBI, WE NEVER KNOW WHEN WE MIGHT DIE"...

WAR BUDDIES... HUH...
... OKAY... ...BY...
... GUESS... THAT'S...
WELL... I...

...

RIGHT NOW...
...WE CAN DRINK AS WAR BUDDIES.
BUT WE'RE BOTH ABOUT TO DIE.



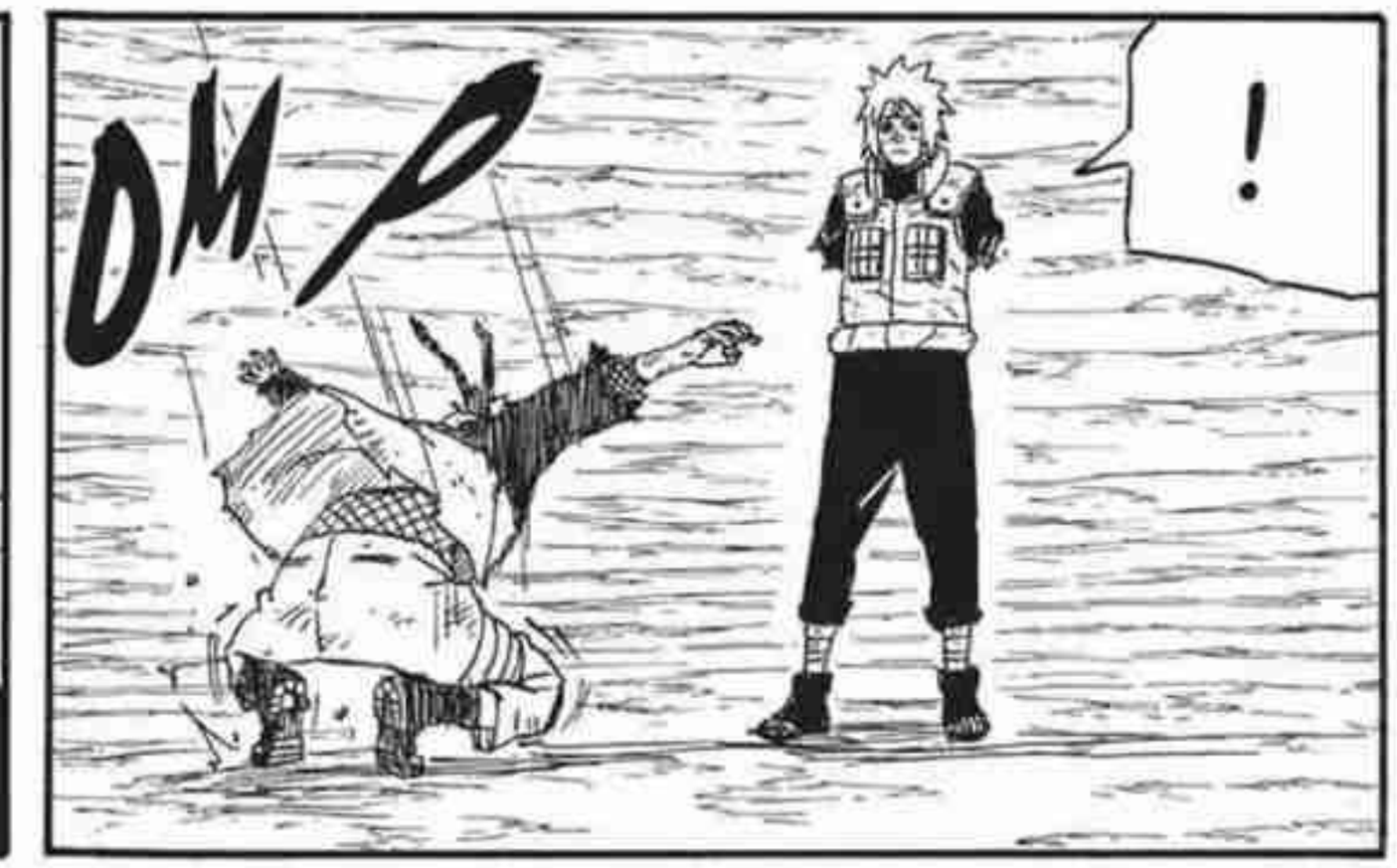


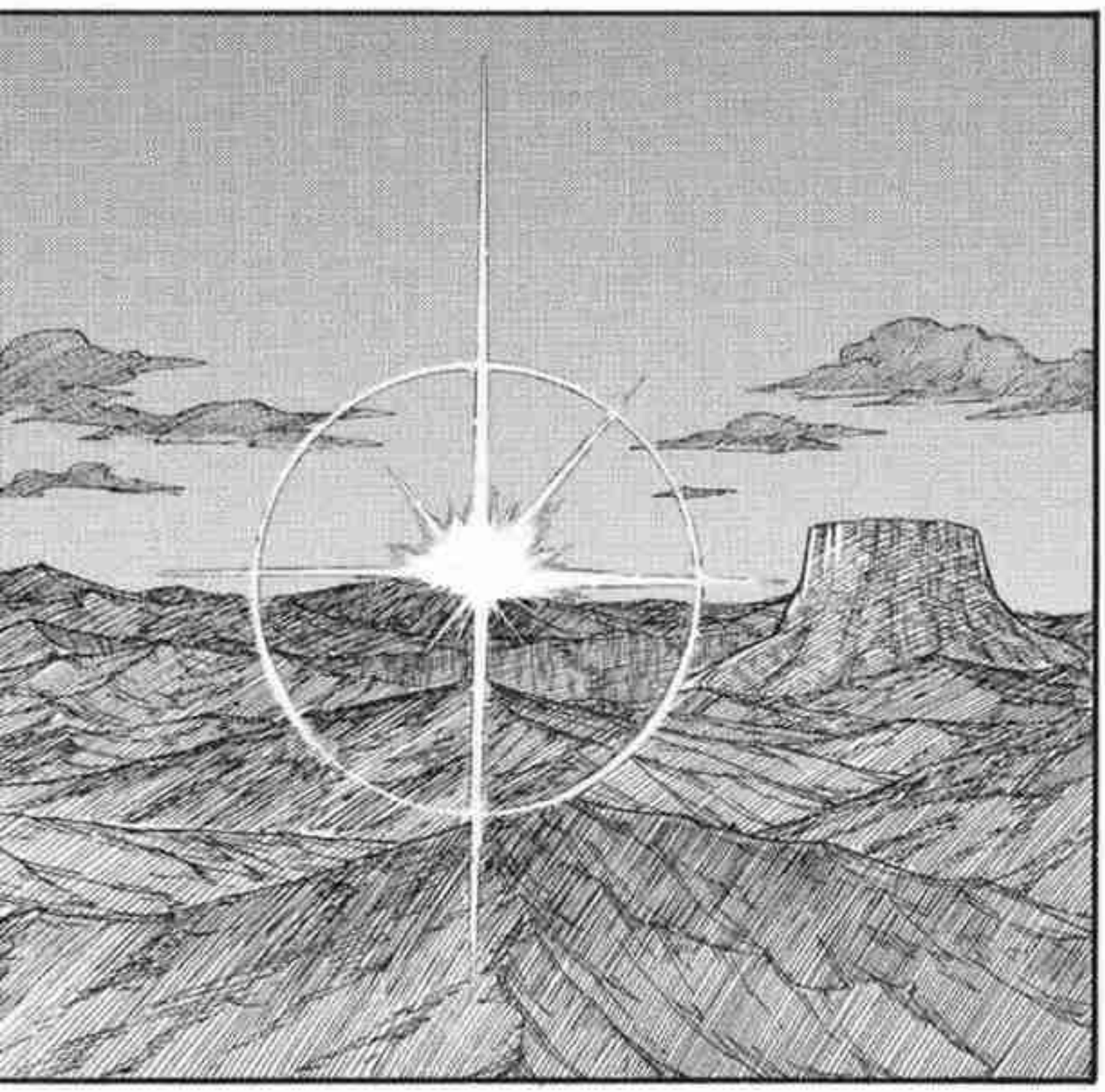
TAK

!!

I'LL REMOVE BOTH THE GOKAGE...
...AND ALL THE EDOTENSEI SHINOBI!

PA...!!


DM
!



THERE'S SOME-THING I MEANT TO TELL YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT...
?
SHUP...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

I PROMISE... TO TELL KUSHINA EVERY-THING...
WHOOSH

...

IT'S GOOD-BYE.
WE'RE AN EXISTENCE OUTSIDE OF THE RULES...
WE CAN'T JUST REMAIN IN THIS WORLD FOREVER.

TONKOTSU RAMEN, MISO RAMEN, SHOYU RAMEN...
OH!
NOT JUST RAMEN, I SWEAR!!
TELL HER NOT TO WORRY, THAT I'M EATING PROPERLY!
LOTS OF DIFFERENT STUFF, WITHOUT BEING PICKY!

...

THOUGH EVERYONE TELLS ME MY BATHS ARE ONLY LIGHTNING-QUICK DIPS!
I BATHE ALMOST EVERY DAY TOO!
EVEN GOING TO KONOHA'S BATHHOUSE ONCE IN A WHILE!

...

I'VE MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS!!

THEY'RE ALL GOOD GUYS!!

LET'S SEE, WHAT ELSE, WHAT ELSE?!

SINCE THEY'RE HERE, YOU CAN ASK THEM YOUR-SELF!

I RESPECT THEM BOTH!

AND OF COURSE, I OBEYED THIRD AND MASTER KAKASHI!

...I MADE SURE NOT TO GET DOWN ON MYSELF AT ALL...

MY STUDIES, THEY DIDN'T GO ANY-WHERE CLOSE TO WELL, BUT...

CONFIDENCE IS SOMETHING THAT I GOT MORE OF THAN ANYONE ELSE!!

WH

OOO

BUT ABOUT MA TELLING ME TO FIND SOMEONE LIKE HER, I DUNNO...

I JUST TURNED 17 TODAY, SO I STILL DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ALCOHOL OR GIRLS!

...THAT'S... UM...

HE WAS PRETTY BAD REGARDING THE PROHIBITIONS, BUT PERVY SAGE WAS AN AWESOME SHINOBI AND I RESPECT HIM THE MOST!

I DO!!

I LEARNED A WHOLE LOT ABOUT THEM WHEN I WAS WITH PERVY SAGE!

OH! AND THOSE THREE PROHIBITIONS OF SHINOBI?!

SWOO...

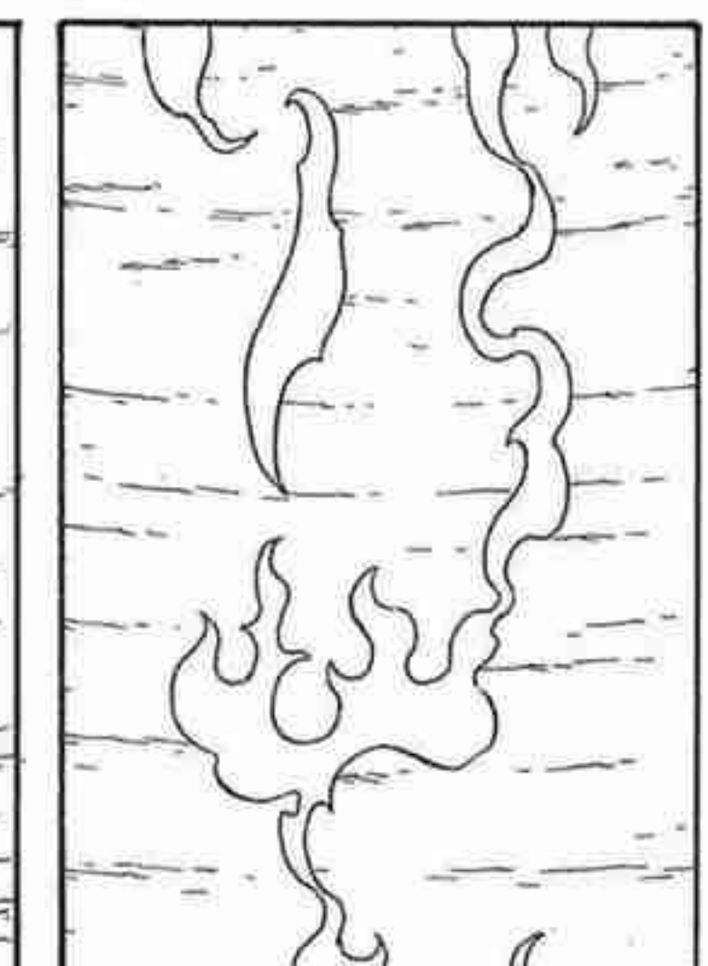
W/
SP
I SWEAR I WILL!!
AND I'VE GOT DREAMS TOO!
I'M GONNA BE AN EVEN GREATER HOKAGE THAN YOU!!

I DID THE BEST THAT I COULD!!
ANY-WAYS!
NOT EVERYTHING MA TOLD ME ABOUT WENT WELL, BUT!

THAT I'M DOING JUST FINE!!

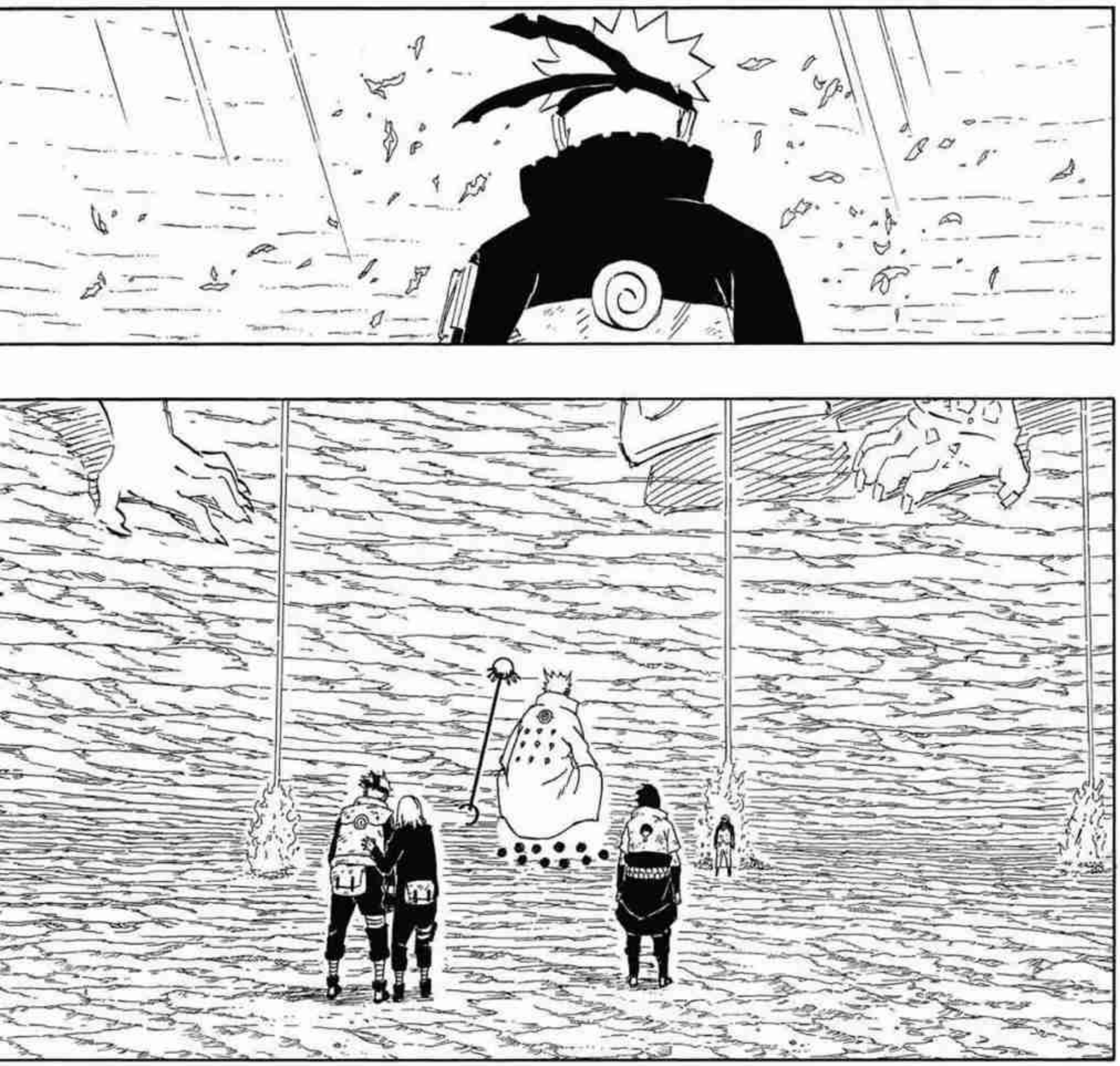
...THAT SHE DOESN'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME AT ALL!!
TELL MA WHEN YOU SEE HER...

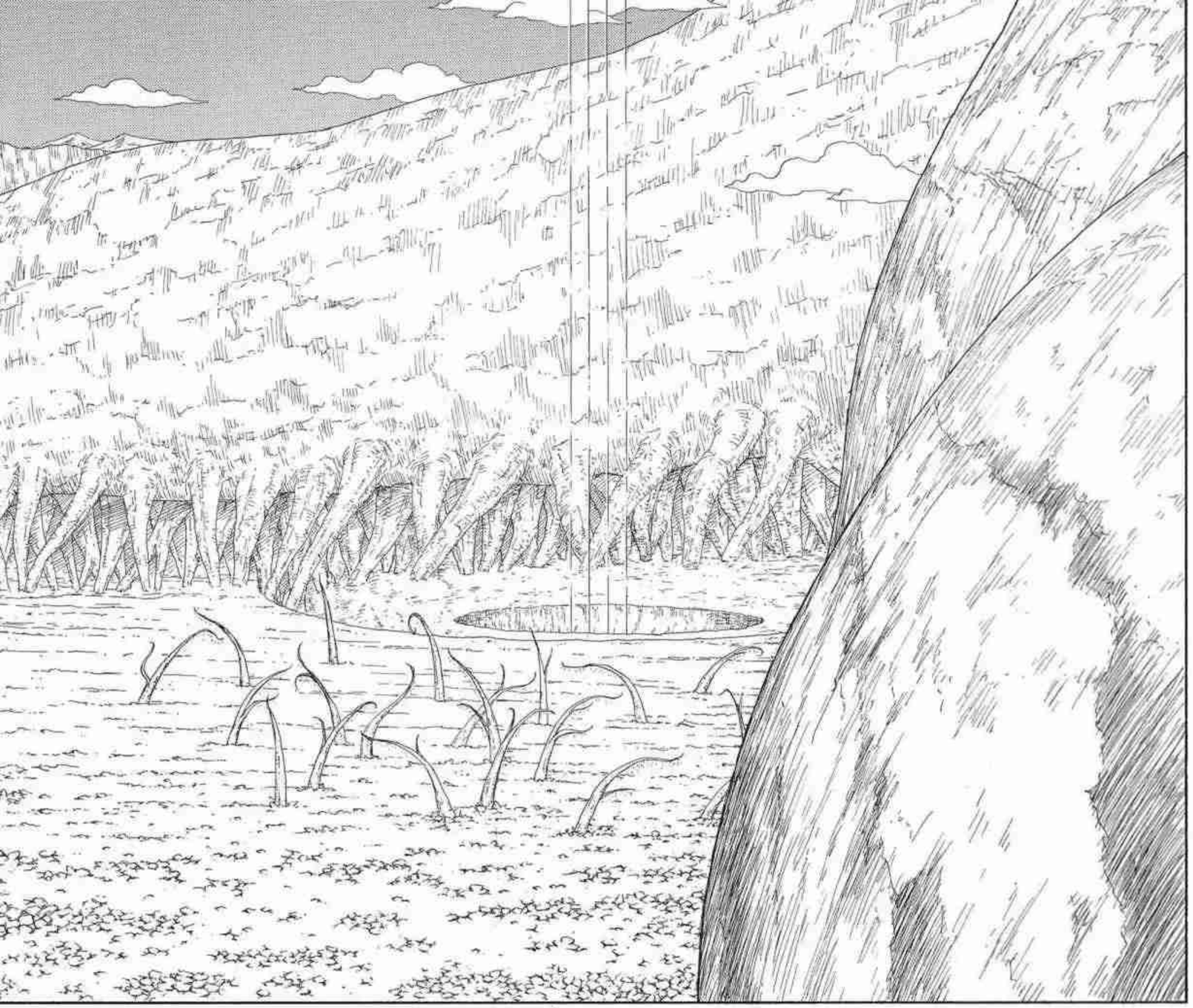
I'LL MAKE SURE TO TELL HER EVERYTHING...
DON'T WORRY...



END OF SERIES COMMEMORATION ILLUSTRATION (1) KENJI TAIRA

Number 692: Revolution



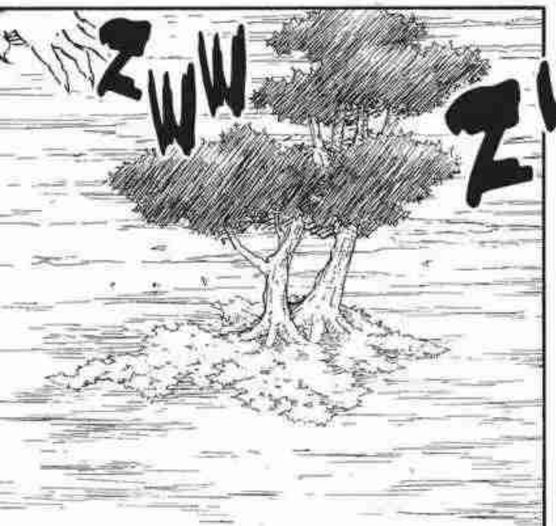


AS SARU SAYS... LET'S LEAVE THE REST TO THE NEXT GENERATION.
ELDER BROTHER... YOU FINALLY SETTLED THINGS WITH MADARA.

...KAKASHI, SAKURA, SASUKE AND NARUTO!
WE'RE LEAVING THE REST TO YOU...

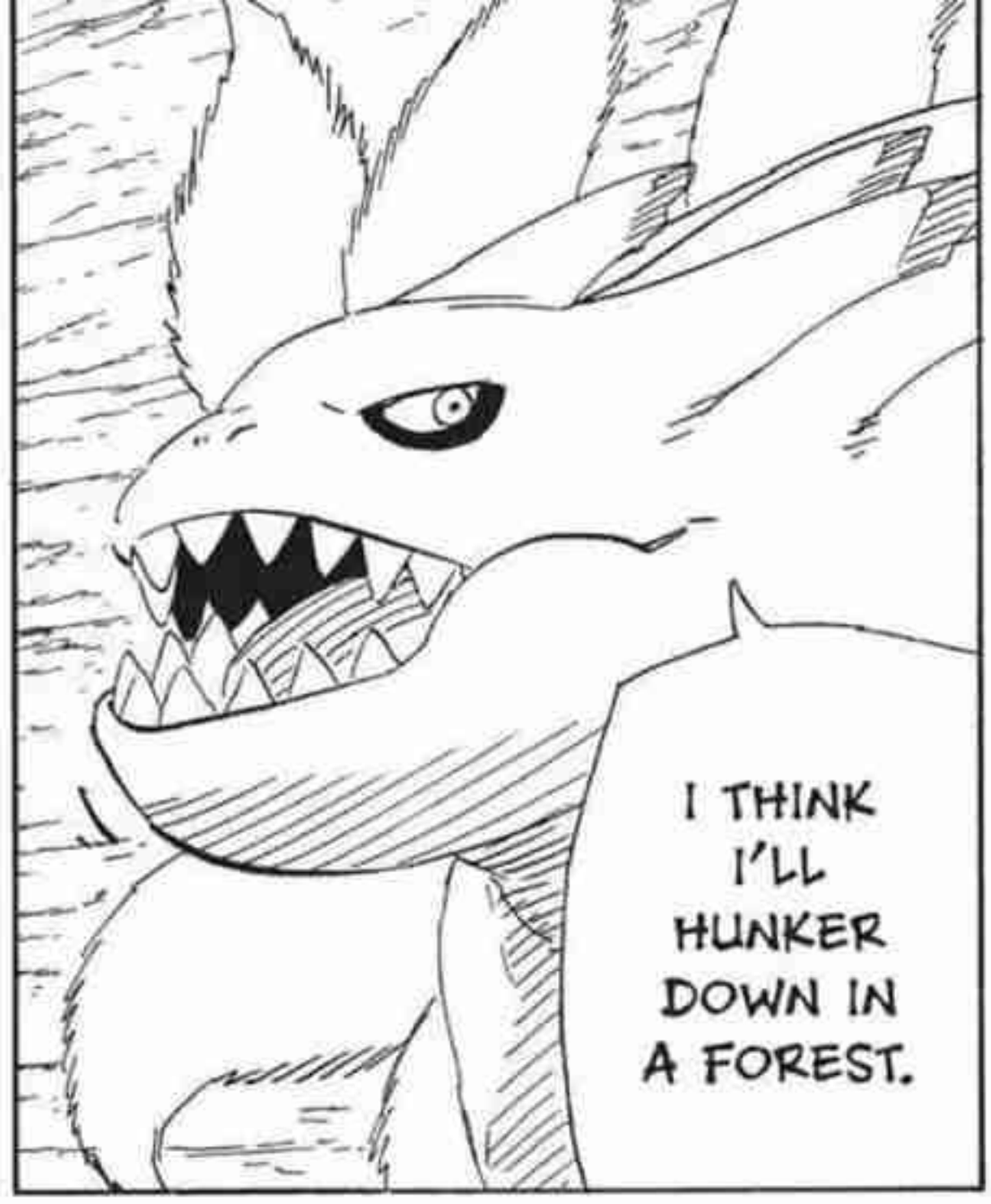
NOD

RUB
RUB


ZWW

ZWWW

NO... MAKE SURE TO DO SO, UZUMAKI NARUTO - AND UCHIHA SASUKE.
WISP...
YOU WILL PROBABLY FIND A DIFFERENT CONCLUSION THAN WE DID...
INDEED ...


I THINK I'LL HUNKER DOWN IN A FOREST.

I'M GOING HOME TO SUIRENDO, SCREECH!
NOW WE'RE ALL FREE TOO.

MY PLAN IS...
ME...?

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?
EIGHT TAILS...

WE CAN FINALLY GO BACK TO OUR HOMES...
IT'S LIKE A DREAM!

...
!

I THINK... I'M GONNA GO BACK TO BEE.
AND YOU?
EVEN HIS ANNOYING RAPPING HAS ENDED UP GROWING ON ME.

...

I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY INSIDE NARUTO AS THE OVERSEER OF THE GATHERING PLACE.
KURAMA ...
...NO LONGER A HARDSHIP, IS IT?
IT'S...

IN SHORT, NARUTO IS LIKE A GATHERING PLACE FOR YOU.
...YOU CAN SPEAK TO EACH OTHER THROUGH YOUR CHAKRA WITHIN NARUTO.
IF YOU WANT TO DISCUSS SOME-THING...

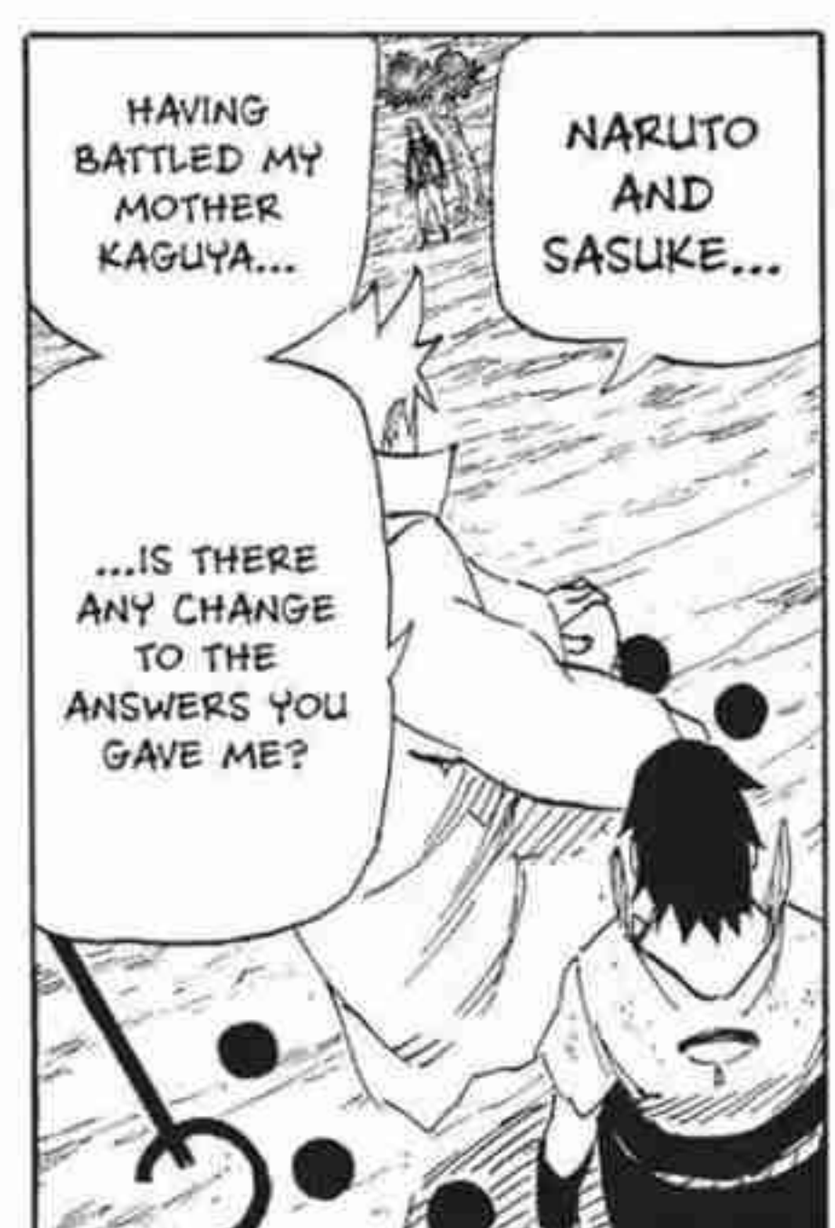
...IS ALREADY INSIDE NARUTO.
A LITTLE PIECE OF EACH OF YOUR CHAKRA...

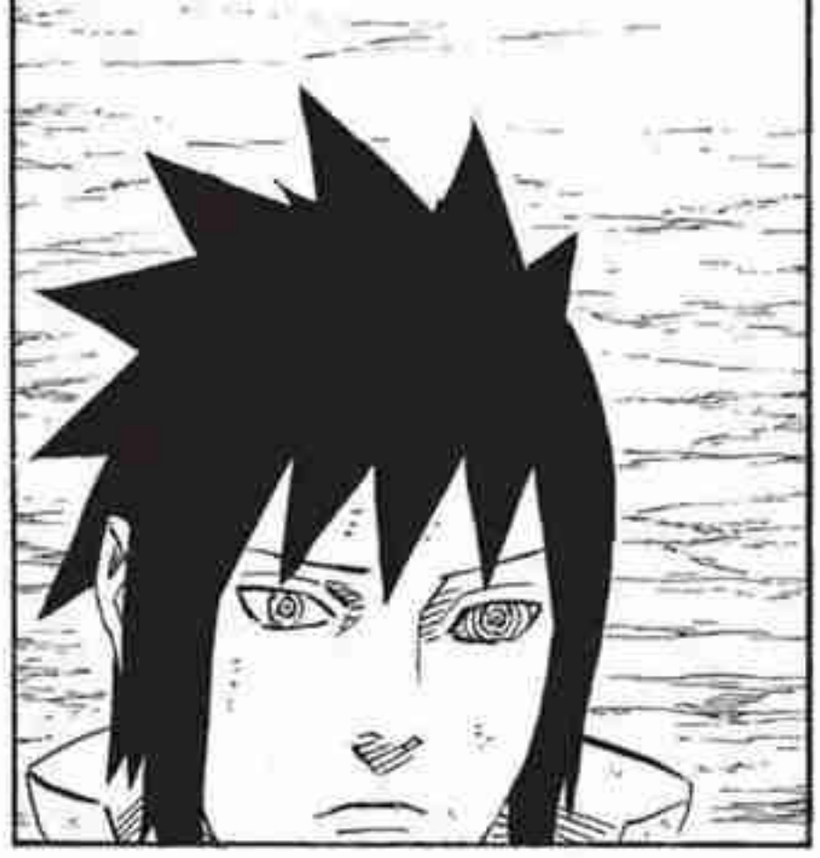
HEH HEH HEH

...I'LL DO IT IF YOU INSIST, OLD MAN.
WELL...

MY ANSWER'S THE SAME.
...I FEEL STRONGELY ABOUT AFTER FIGHTING KAGUYA.
AND I'M SORRY, SUPER GRAMPS, BUT THERE IS ONE THING...

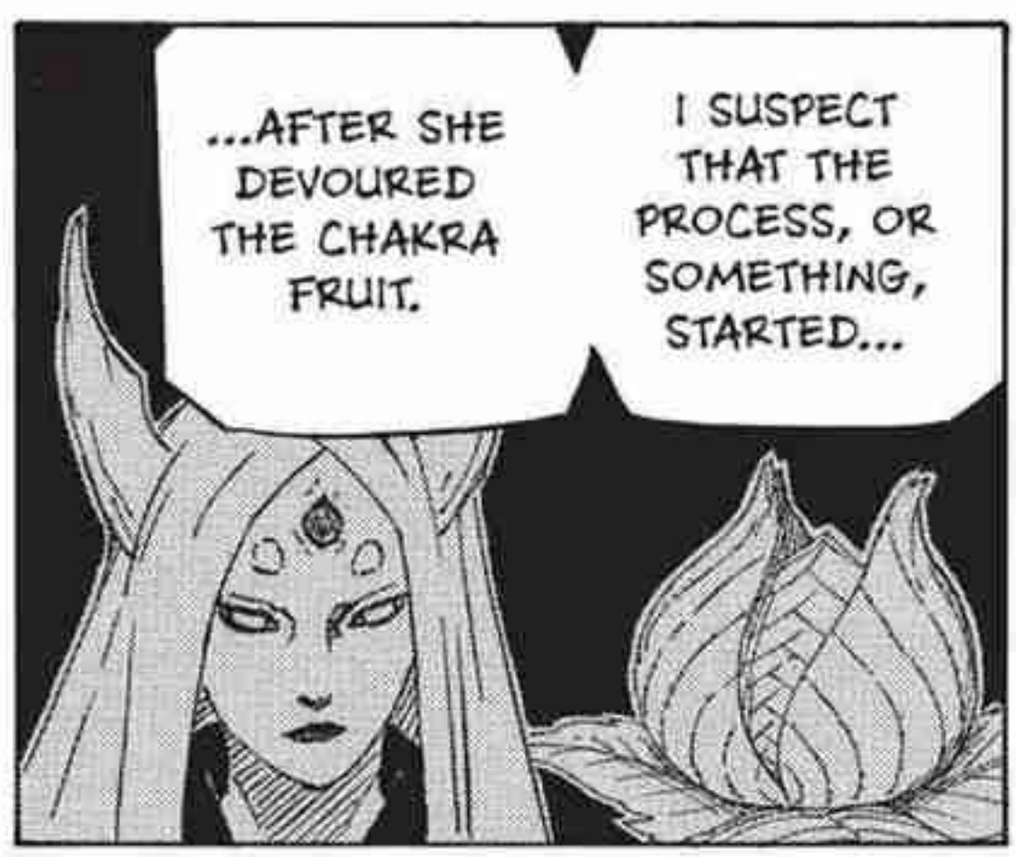
...

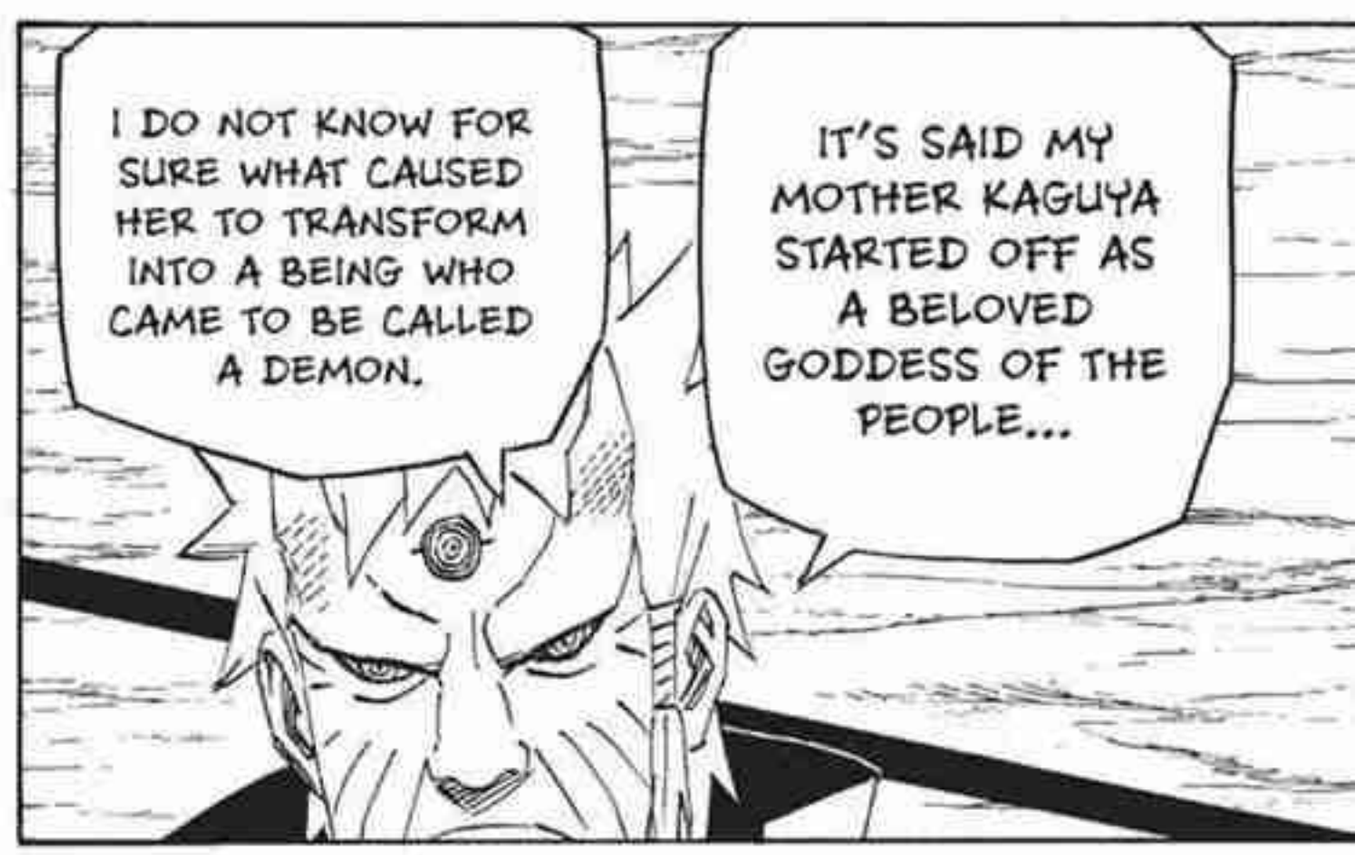

HAVING BATTLED MY MOTHER KAGUYA...
NARUTO AND SASUKE...
...IS THERE ANY CHANGE TO THE ANSWERS YOU GAVE ME?



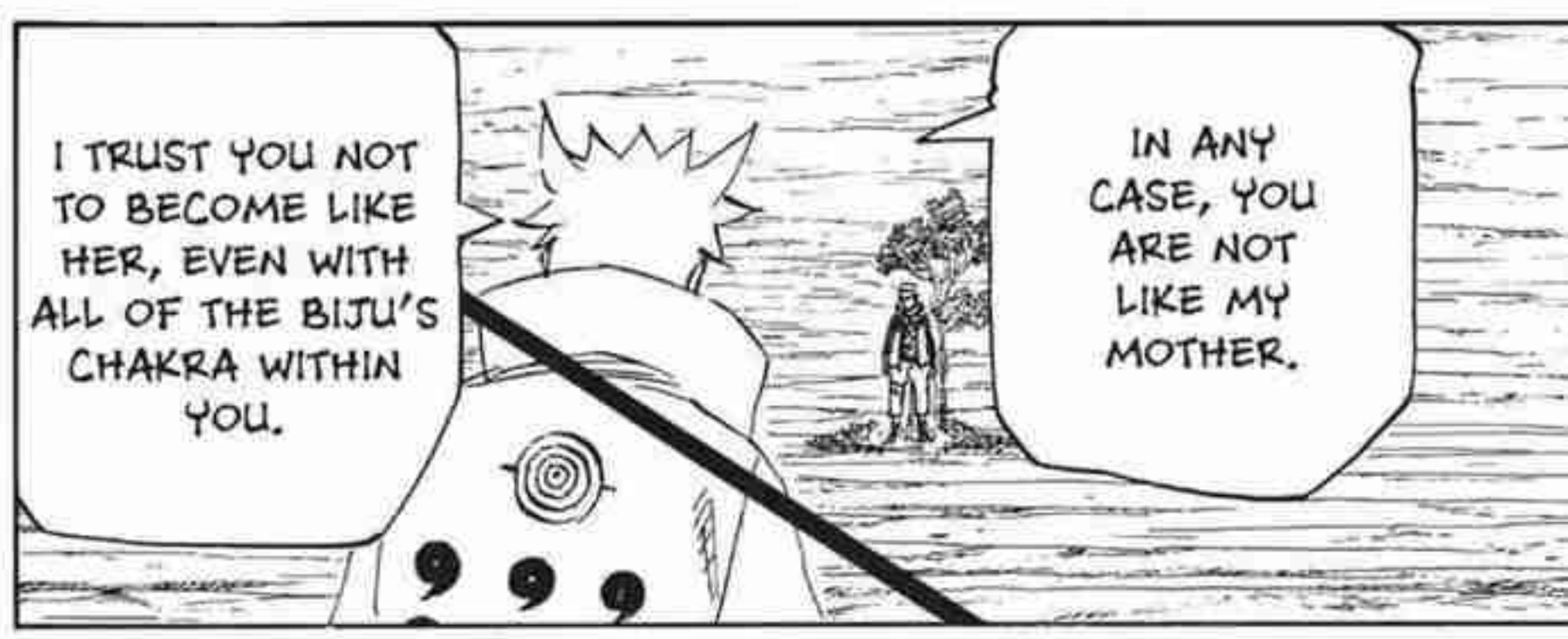
...MY MA WAS UZUMAKI KUSHINA.
I'M JUST SO GLAD...

IT'S LIKE SHE DIDN'T HAVE A HEART AT ALL...
KAGUYA WAS... DIFFERENT FROM ANYONE ELSE I'VE FOUGHT...


...AFTER SHE DEVOURED THE CHAKRA FRUIT.
I SUSPECT THAT THE PROCESS, OR SOMETHING, STARTED...

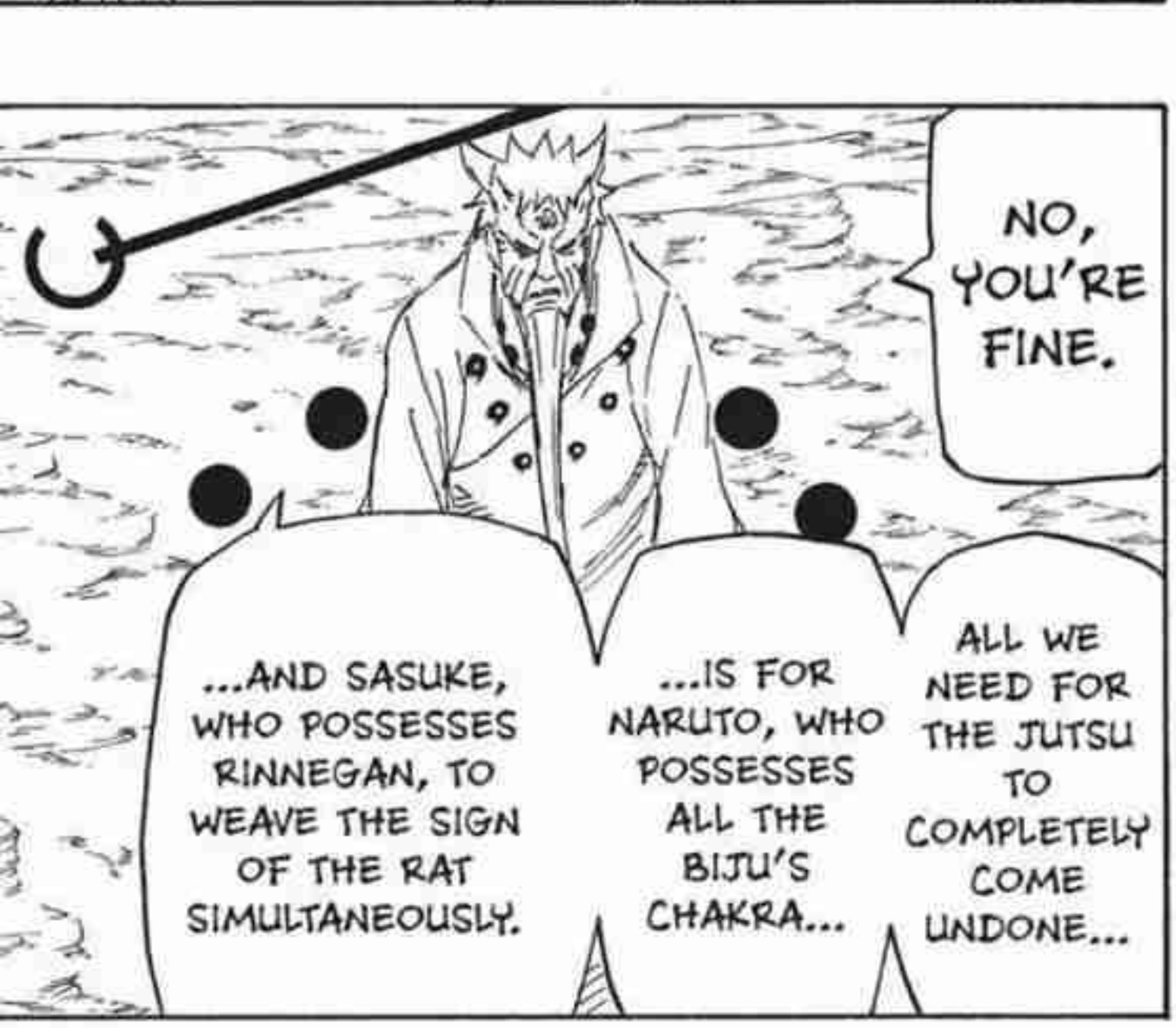

I DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE WHAT CAUSED HER TO TRANSFORM INTO A BEING WHO CAME TO BE CALLED A DEMON.
IT'S SAID MY MOTHER KAGUYA STARTED OFF AS A BELOVED GODDESS OF THE PEOPLE...

NOW THEN, ALL THAT'S LEFT...


I TRUST YOU NOT TO BECOME LIKE HER, EVEN WITH ALL OF THE BIJU'S CHAKRA WITHIN YOU.
IN ANY CASE, YOU ARE NOT LIKE MY MOTHER.

DO YOU NEED OUR POWERS TOO?
BUT HOW, SPECIFICALLY?

...IS TO UNDO THE INFINITE TSUKUYOMI.

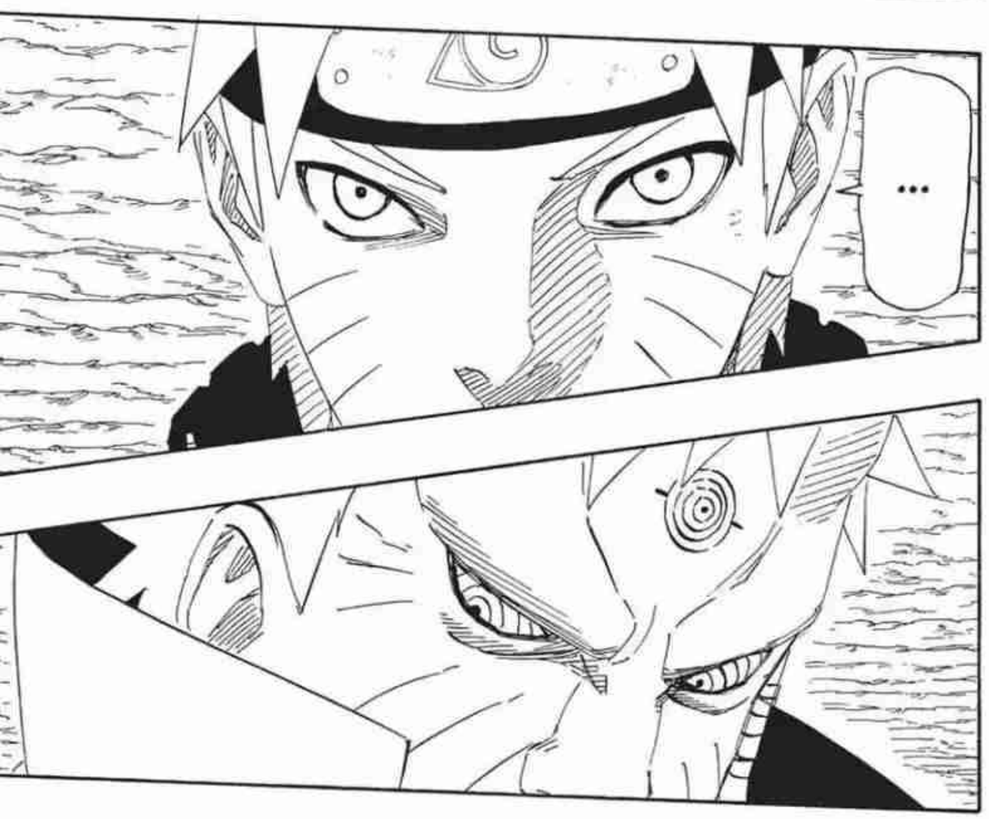

NO, YOU'RE FINE.
...AND SASUKE, WHO POSSESSES RINNEGAN, TO WEAVE THE SIGN OF THE RAT SIMULTANEOUSLY.
...IS FOR NARUTO, WHO POSSESSES ALL THE BIJU'S CHAKRA...
ALL WE NEED FOR THE JUTSU TO COMPLETELY COME UNDONE...

GLANCE
NOW THEN...
THE REST IS UP TO YOU, SASUKE...

I RESEARCHED THOROUGHLY HOW TO UNDO MOTHER'S INFINITE TSUKUYOMI...
SHUCKS, THAT'S IT? IT'S REALLY THAT EASY?
THERE'S NO MISTAKE.

YES...

...



BUT FIRST...

...I'M EXECUTING THE CURRENT GOKAGE INSIDE THE INFINITE TSUKUYOMI.

SHIKE EN

...I'LL GET RID OF YOU AS WELL.

I'M PUTTING ALL OF YOU UNDER *MY* CONTROL, AND EVENTUALLY...

PLUS...

...THE BIJU...

I CANNOT STAY IN THIS WORLD ANY LONGER.

I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRUST YOU TO HANDLE THIS...

NARUTO ...

I SHALL SOON FADE AWAY.

IT HAS ENDED UP AS I EXPECTED.

HE PUT THE BIJU... UNDER GENJUTSU ...!!

AND WITH A SINGLE GLANCE TOO...

BUT IT AIN'T GONNA GO LIKE IT DID WITH YOUR KIDS.

AND I'LL APOLOGIZE FOR THIS TOO, SIX PATHS SUPER GRAMPS...

YEAH...

AND SASUKE AIN'T INDRA, EITHER!

I AIN'T ASHURA!

SASUKE! IS THAT WHAT YOUR CURRENT DREAM IS?!!
SASUKE!
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE STILL SEEKING VENGEANCE?!

My dear Sasuke, what do you want to do? What is it that you seek for the aftermath of this war?
I'd like to hear your honest thoughts and opinions.

A VILLAGE WITHOUT DARKNESS!
I WILL REFORM THE SHINOBI WORLD!
?!
NOW I WANT TO DESTROY AND THEN REBUILD.

...AND ACHIEVE VENGEANCE.
FOR CERTAIN, I USED TO ONLY WANT TO DESTROY...
IT'S DIFFERENT NOW.

PLINK
...IS...
WHAT I'M TOUTING...
PLINK

REVOLUTION... YOU SAY?!

...!

ALL OF THE PREVIOUS KAGE CREATED THESE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

!

SO, I WILL BECOME HOKAGE AND CHANGE THE VILLAGE.

THIS HOKAGE THAT YOU HAVE MENTIONED...

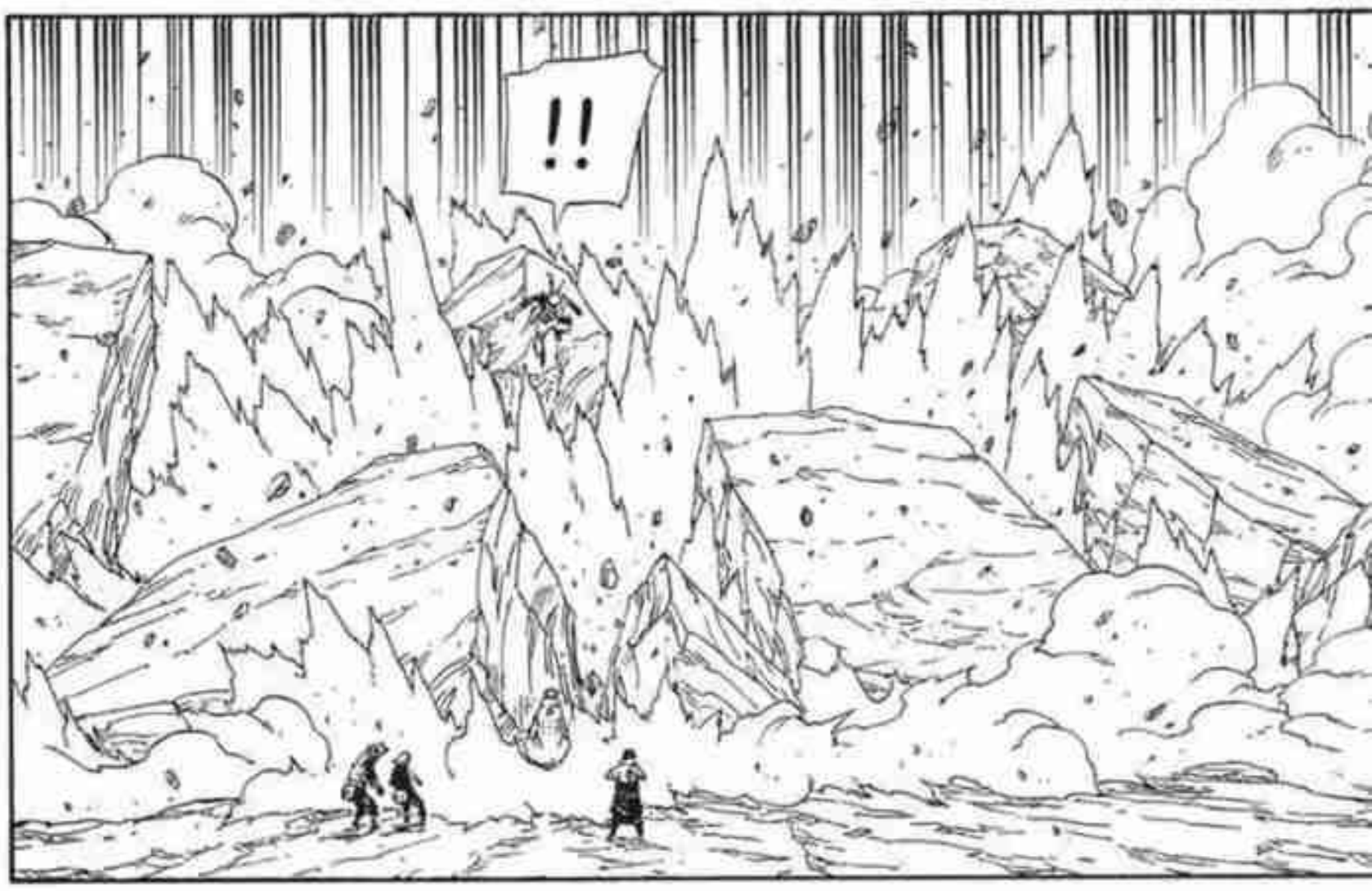
WHAT MEAN YOU BY IT...?

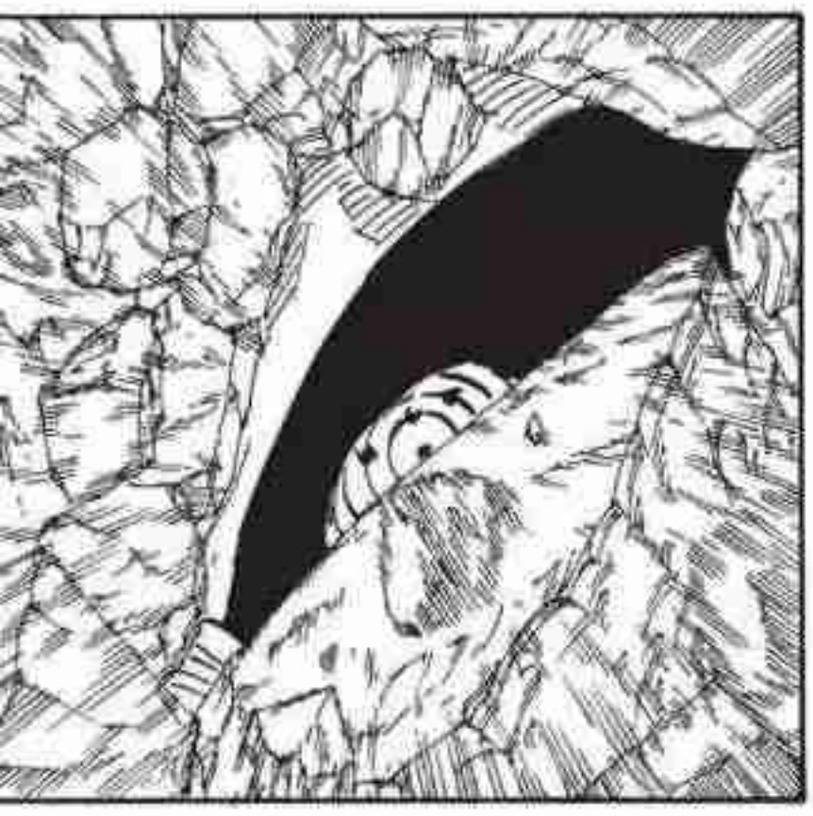
...I'LL TELL YOU.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW SO BADLY...

...
REVOLUTION!

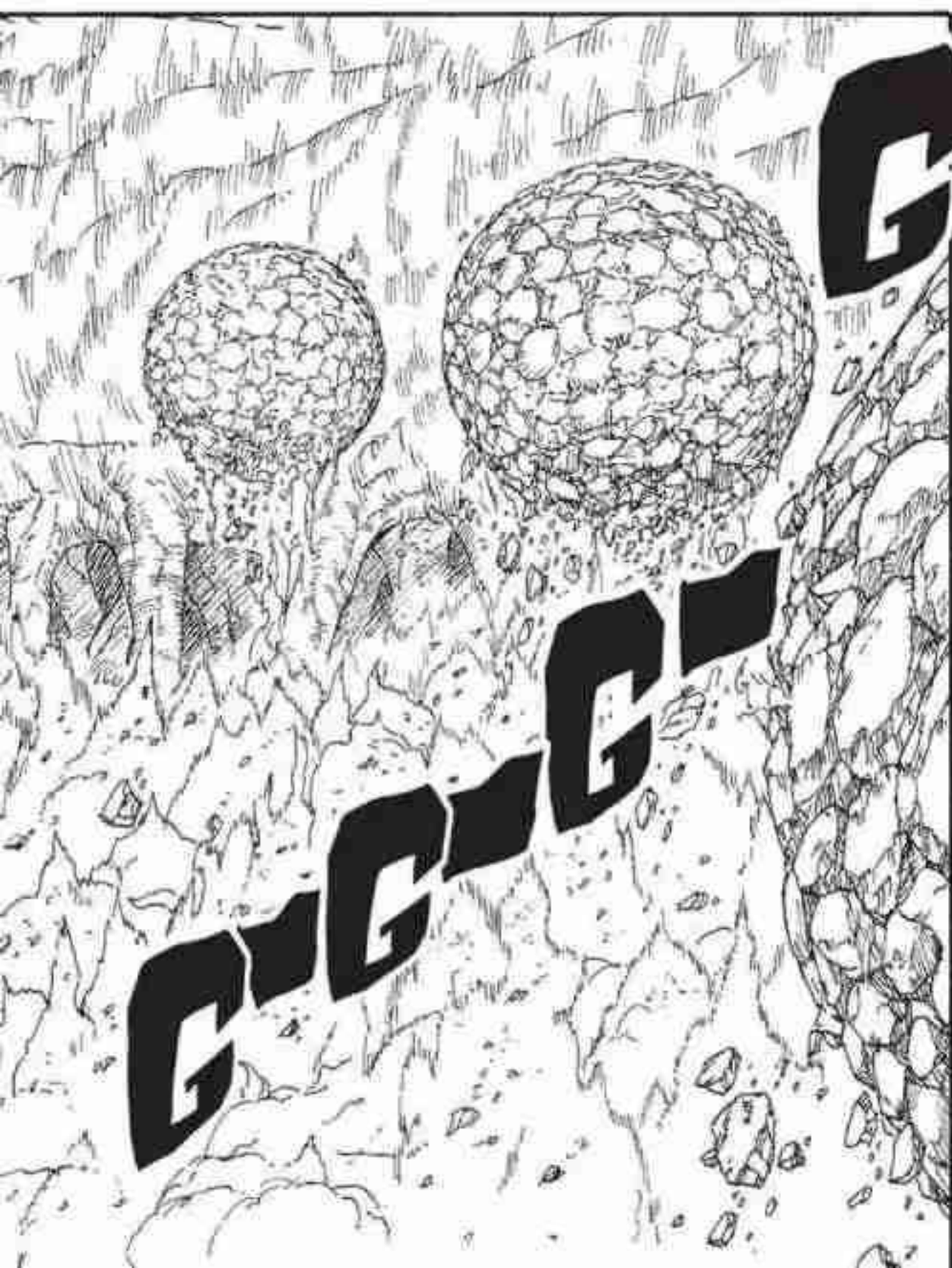
CATASTROPHIC PLANETARY CONSTRUCTION!

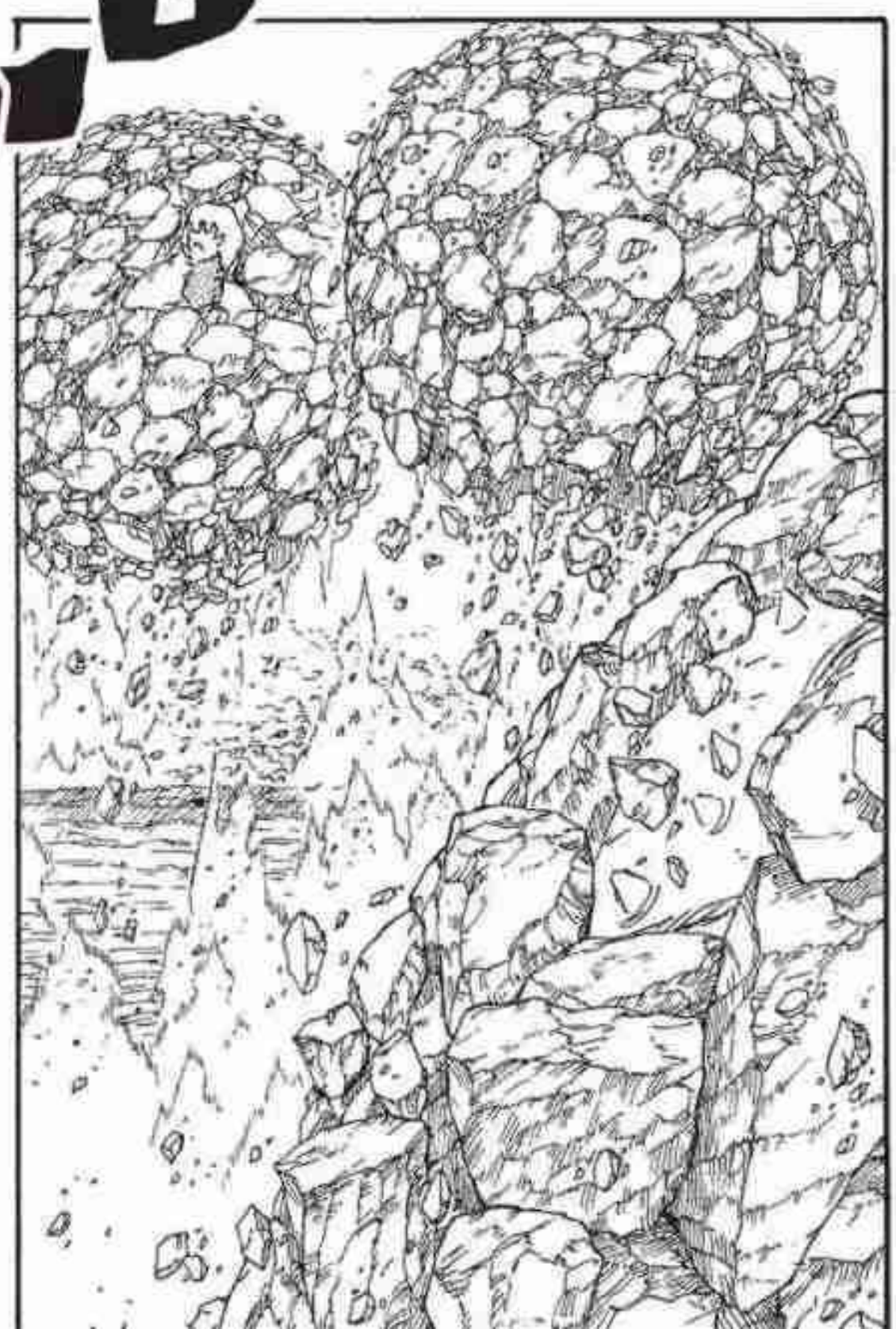




NARUTO ...
IT'S ON YOU...

JUST HANG IN THERE A LITTLE WHILE, OKAY?!!
I SWEAR TO RESCUE Y'ALL!!


GrGrGr

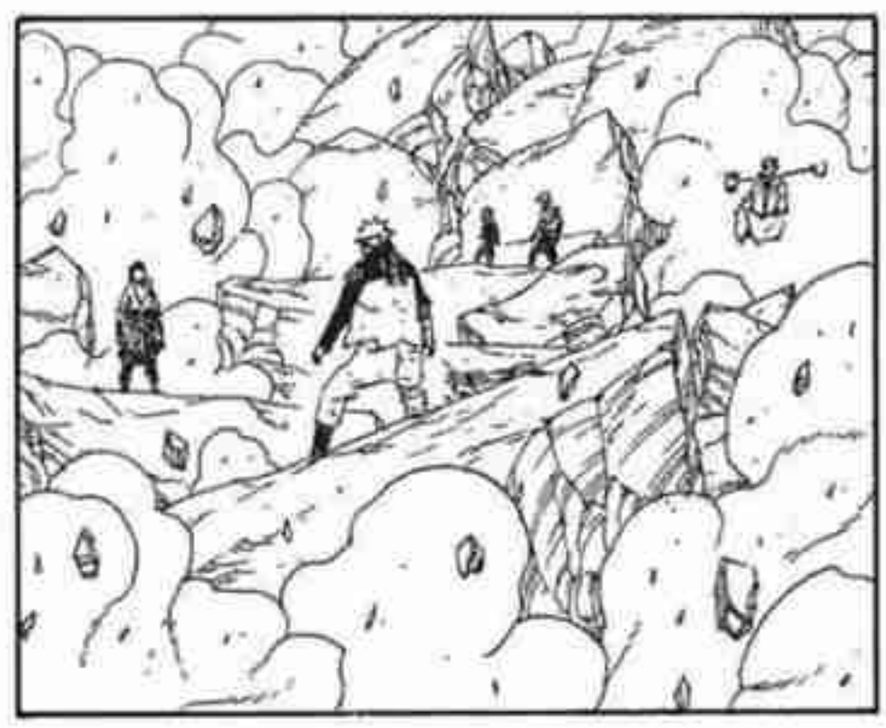


EXCEPT FOR YOU, NARUTO.
GLARE
I'VE BECOME QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE ABILITIES AND USE OF THE RINNEGAN DURING THIS BATTLE...
...AND ALL THOSE WHO WERE IN MY WAY ARE GONE...
SKID

THIS TIME, I BEQUEATHED IT TO BOTH, YET IT STILL ENDED UP THE SAME WAY...
WHEN I BEQUEATHED POWER TO JUST ONE SIDE, I ENDED UP WITH INDRA AND ASHURA.

THINGS... JUST DON'T GO AS PLANNED.

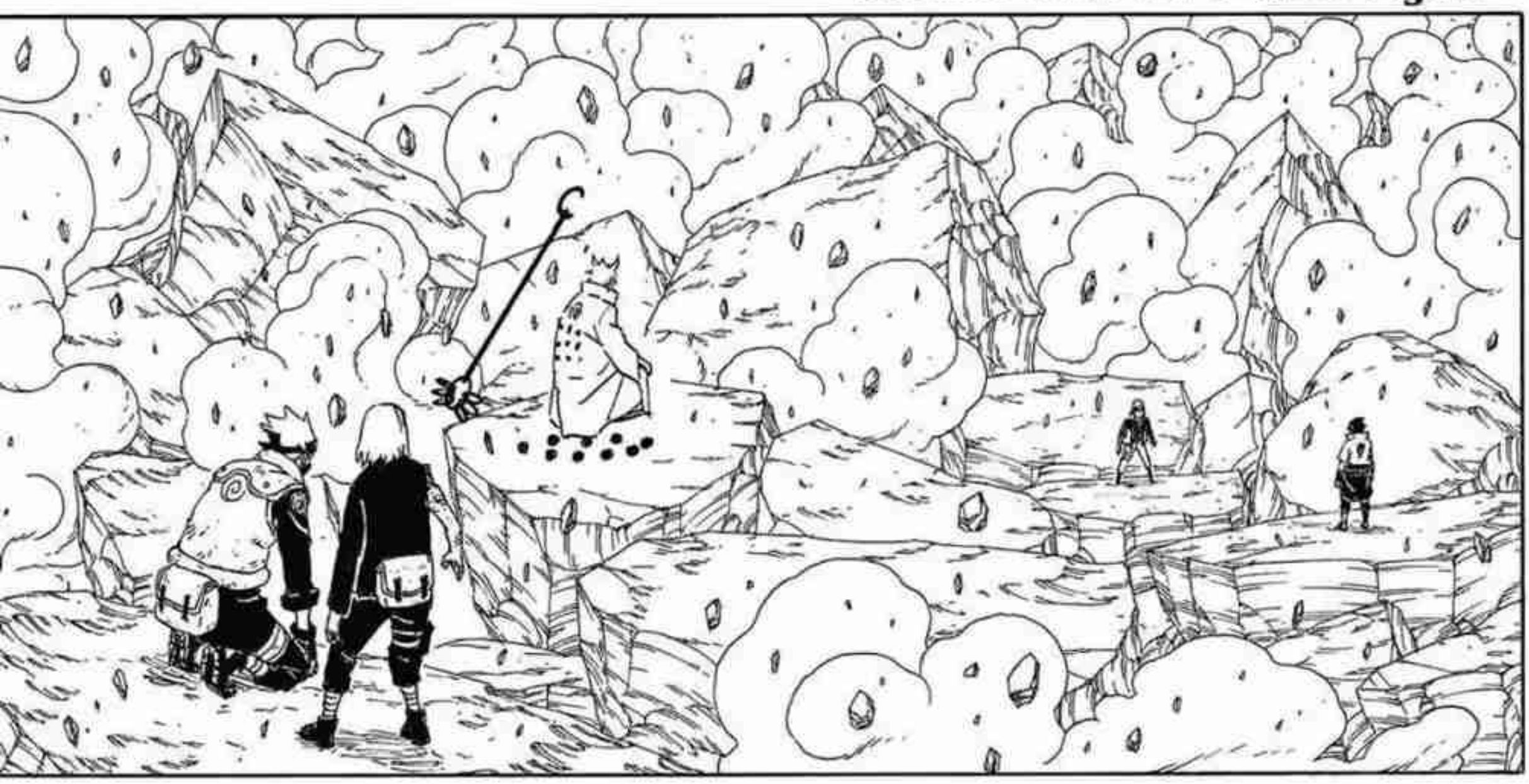
FOOO...



...IS GONNA END HERE AND NOW!
NOPE...
ALL SIBLING SQUABBLING ...

END OF SERIES COMMEMORATION ILLUSTRATION (2) MIKIO IKEMOTO

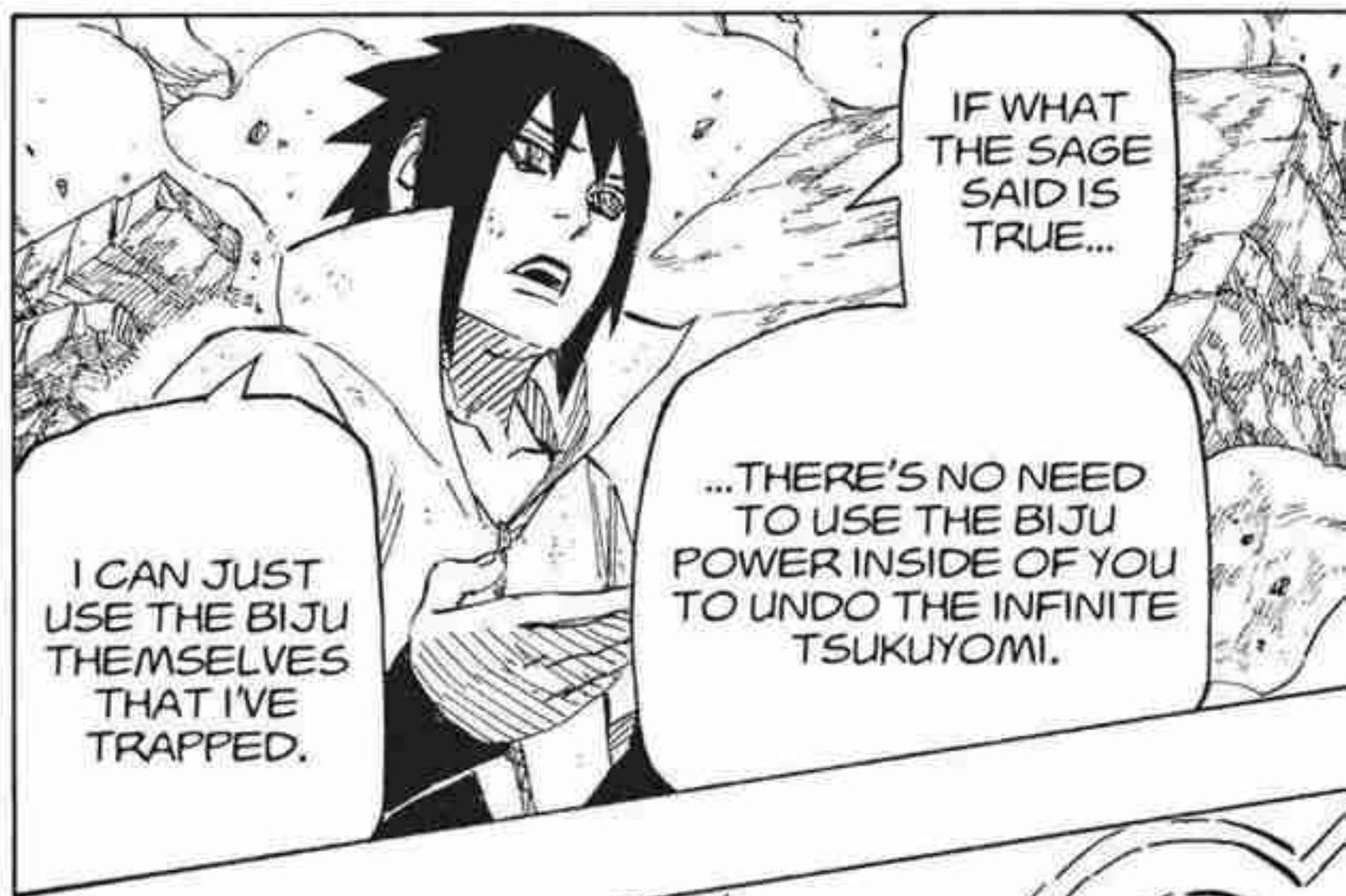
Number 693: Here Once Again



...

OUT OF NECESSITY.
IN SHORT, YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, NARUTO.

SO I'LL LET THEM LIVE UNTIL THEN.


I CAN JUST USE THE BIJU THEMSELVES THAT I'VE TRAPPED.
IF WHAT THE SAGE SAID IS TRUE...
...THERE'S NO NEED TO USE THE BIJU POWER INSIDE OF YOU TO UNDO THE INFINITE TSUKUYOMI.

...

I WON'T LET YOU DO ANY HARM TO THEM...
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?!

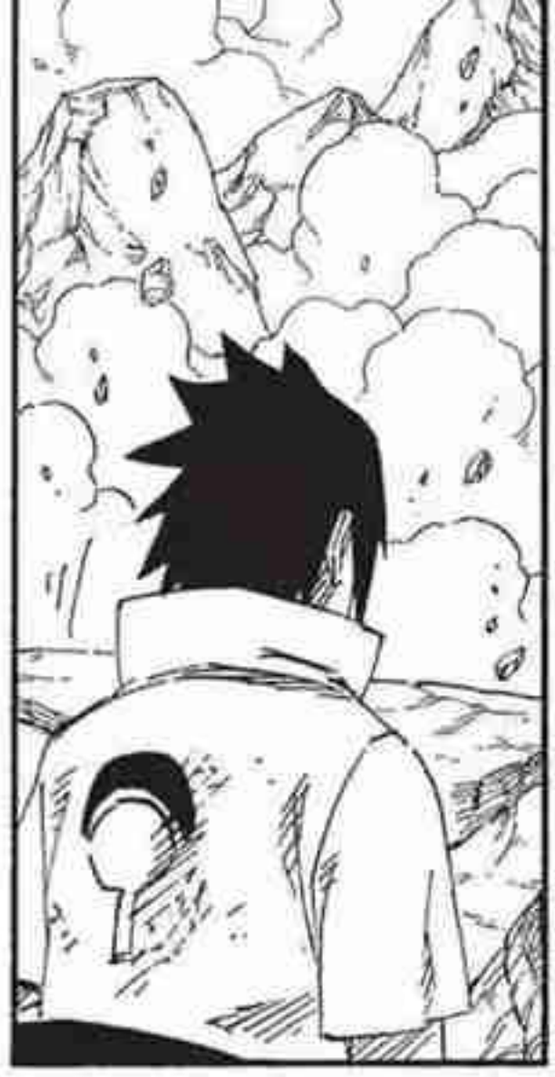
YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?
LET'S MOVE THIS ELSE-WHERE.

FSH...
TMP
AS EXPECTED, I'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOU FIRST, NARUTO.

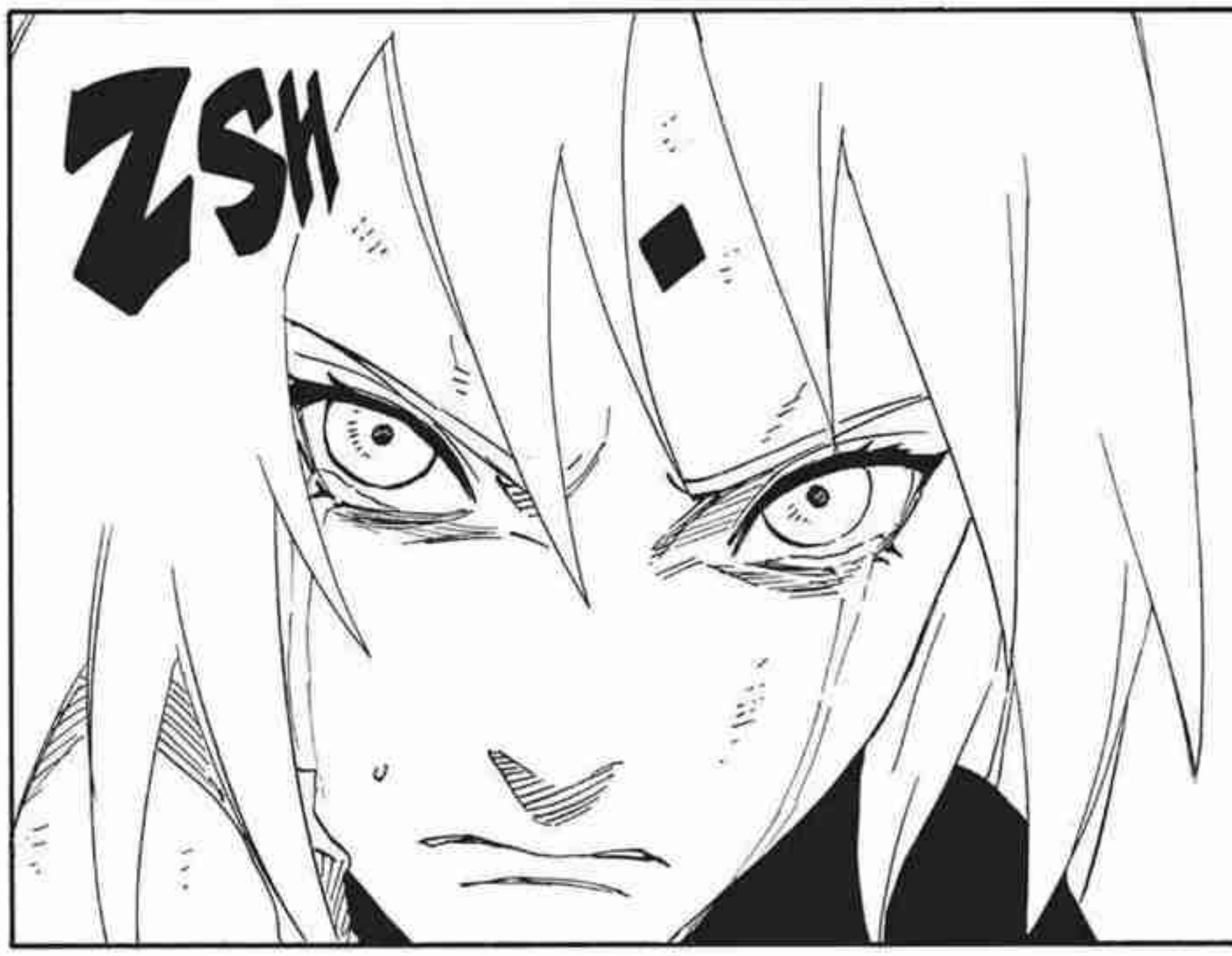
HOLD IT, SASUKE!
SHUP

THE SHARINGAN'S AFTEREFFECT IS STILL!!
UGH...

MASTER!
!
THW
UMP



GRIT...


ZSH

I CAN ONLY WHINE, BEG, AND CRY LIKE THIS AGAIN.

IT'S TOTALLY PITIFUL, ISN'T IT?!

I CAN'T GET CLOSE TO YOU...

...OR EXCHANGE BLOWS WITH YOU...

...

THANK YOU.

...EVEN THOUGH I LOVE YOU!!

EVEN THOUGH I CARE SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, SASUKE!!

I...

I KNOW IN MY HEART THAT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO...

THAT...

...LIKE THE OLD TIMES AGAIN, SOMEDAY...

IF WE JUST STICK TOGETHER, I KNOW IT CAN BE...

IF THERE'S EVEN A LITTLE CORNER OF YOUR HEART THAT THINKS ABOUT ME...

BUT, SASUKE!

BUT...

...PLEASE DON'T LEAVE AGAIN!

YOU...
...REALLY DO MAKE ME SICK.
FSH
THUD

!
WHUMP

...
WOBBLE

SHE WOULD'VE CHASED AFTER US OTHERWISE.
AND GOTTEN IN THE WAY.
!!
YOU DIDN'T NEED TO PUT SAKURA UNDER GENJUTSU !!

I HAVE NO REASON TO LIKE HER, NOR DOES SHE HAVE ANY REASON TO LIKE ME.
YOU WANT ME TO PLAY AT ROMANCE?

SHE ALWAYS DID.
SAKURA JUST WANTED TO SAVE YOU.
SAKURA ...

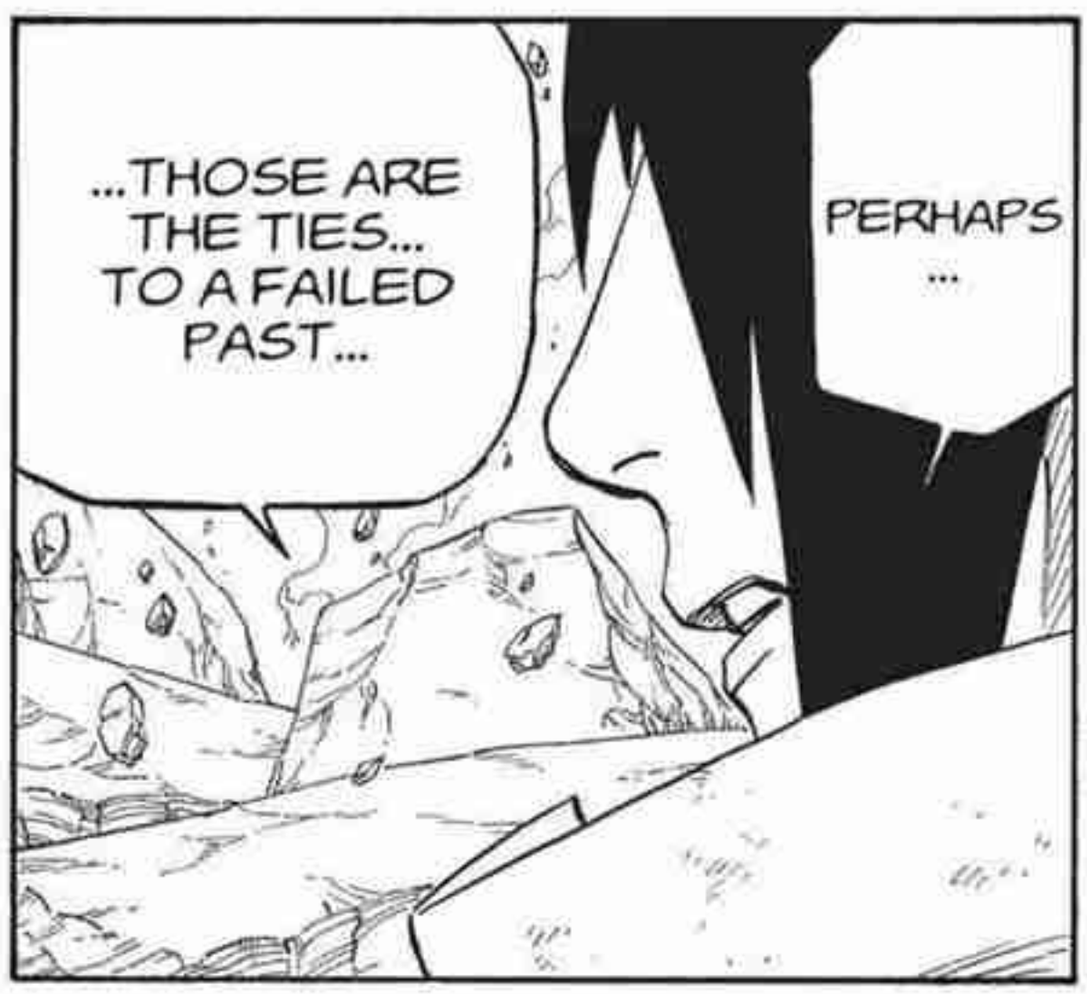
SHE WHO YOU CAME CLOSE TO KILLING ONCE...

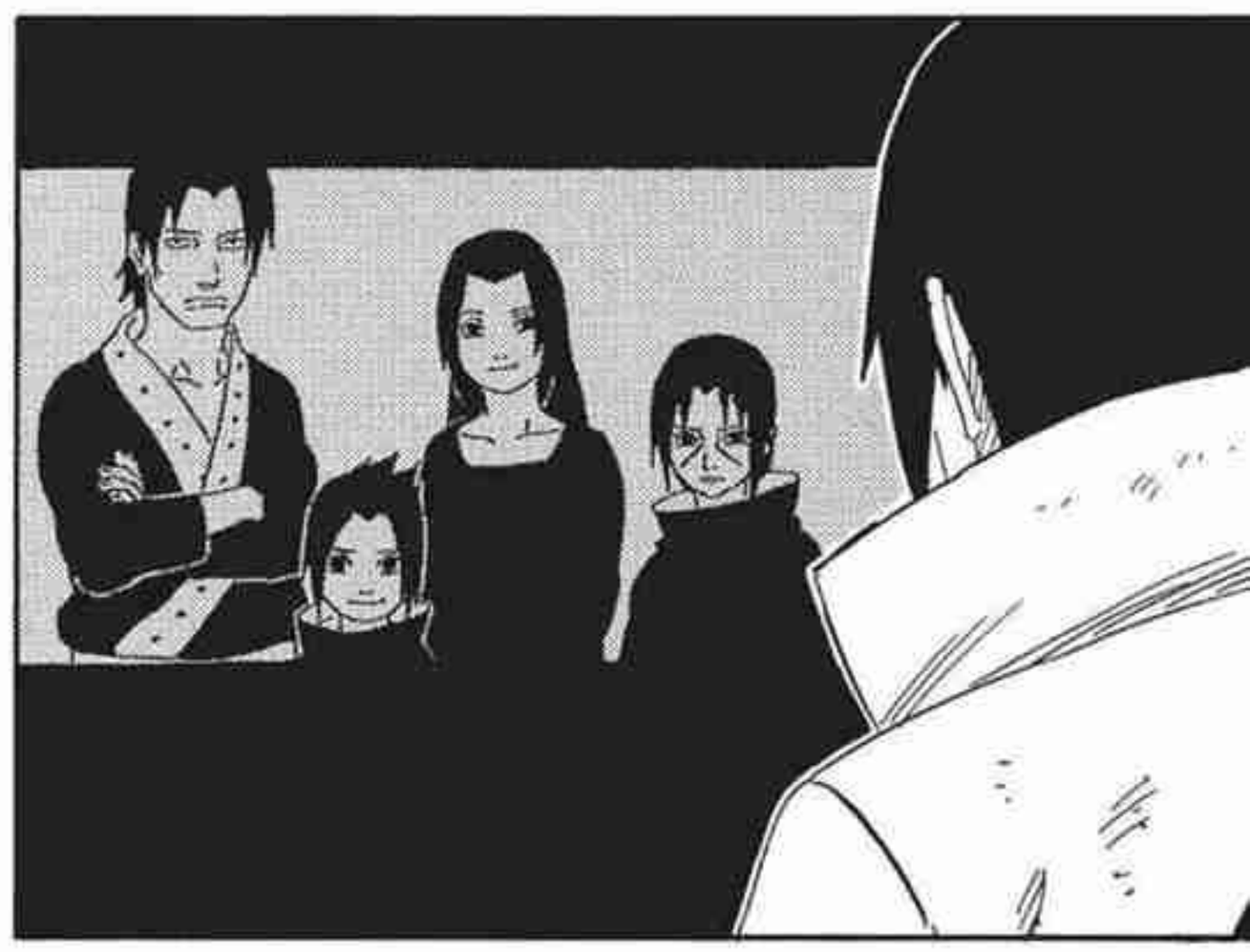
SHE FEELS FOR AND SPILLS TEARS OVER YOU, EVEN NOW...

SHE ONLY WANTS TO SAVE YOU!

AND SAKURA'S NOT TRYING OR WANTING TO MAKE YOU HERS!

YOU ONLY NEED A REASON TO ***HATE*** A PERSON!





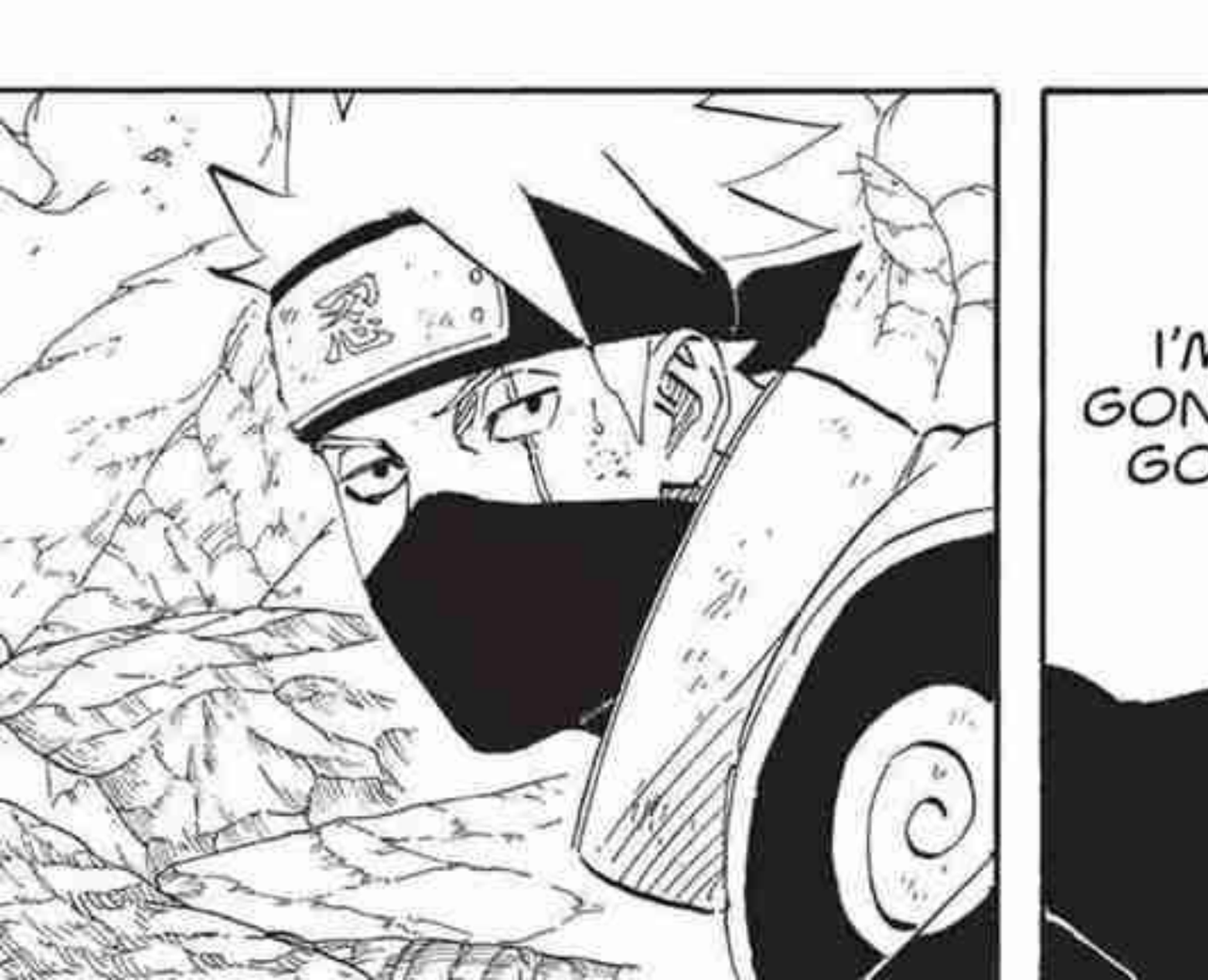
SASUKE...
...

...!!
TACK

!
I ONCE SWORE...

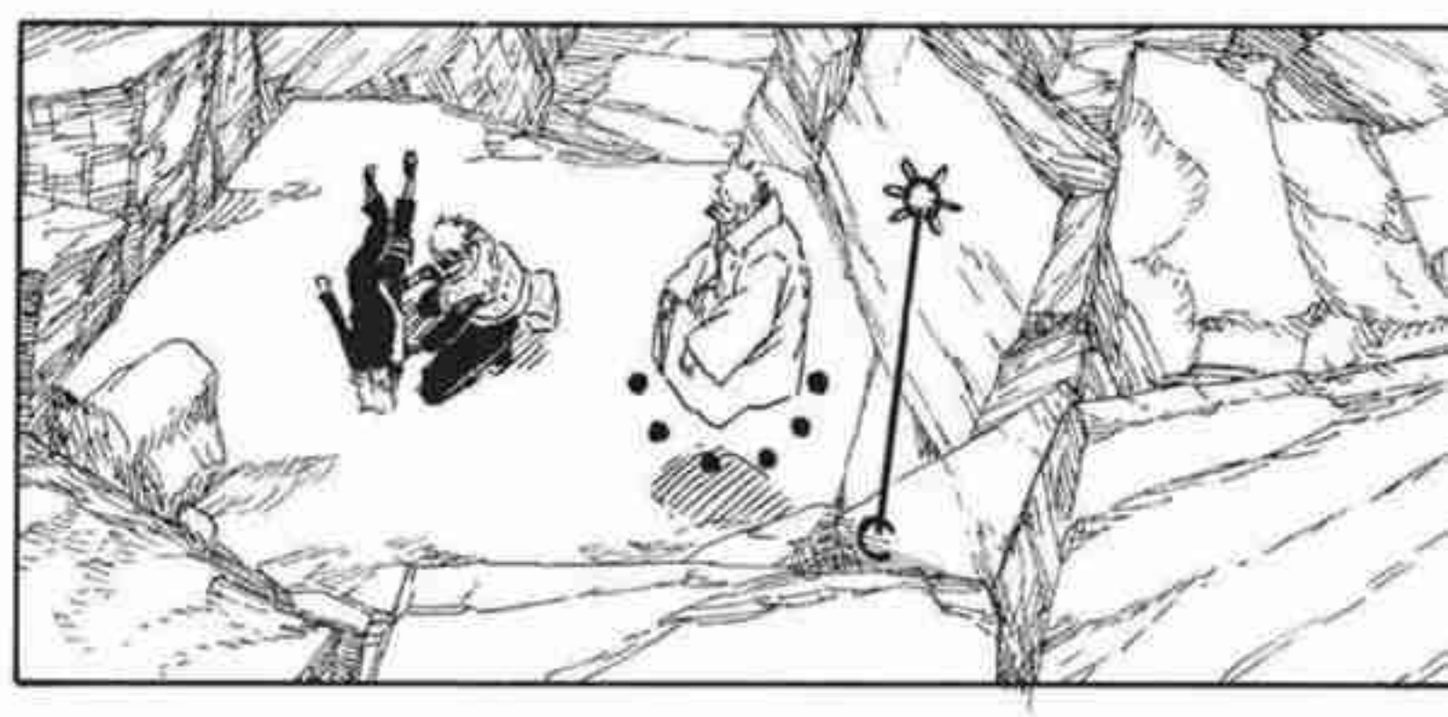
NARUTO ...

...THAT I'D BRING SASUKE BACK.
...TO SAKURA, A LONG TIME AGO...



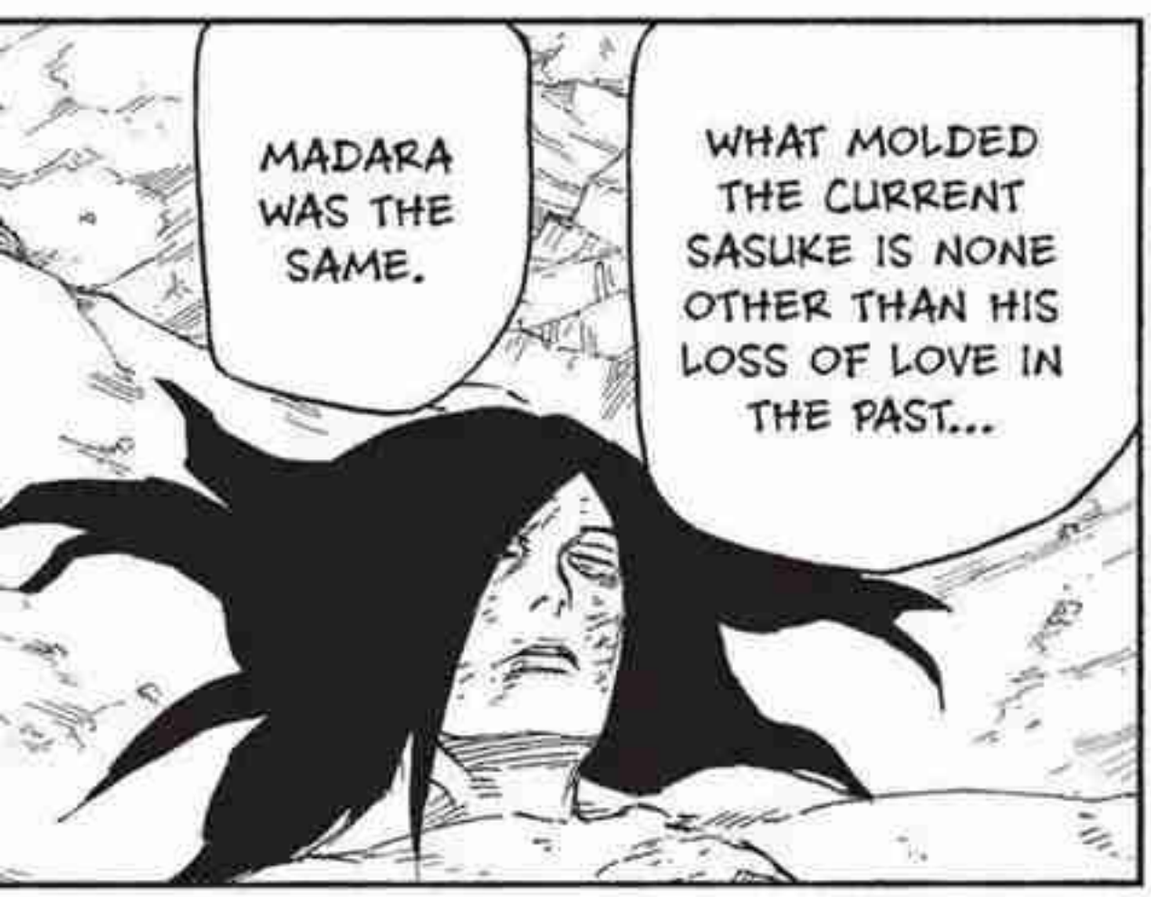
I'M GONNA GO!!
MASTER!
YOU KNOW MY SHINOBI WAY ALREADY, RIGHT?

YEAH... WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.

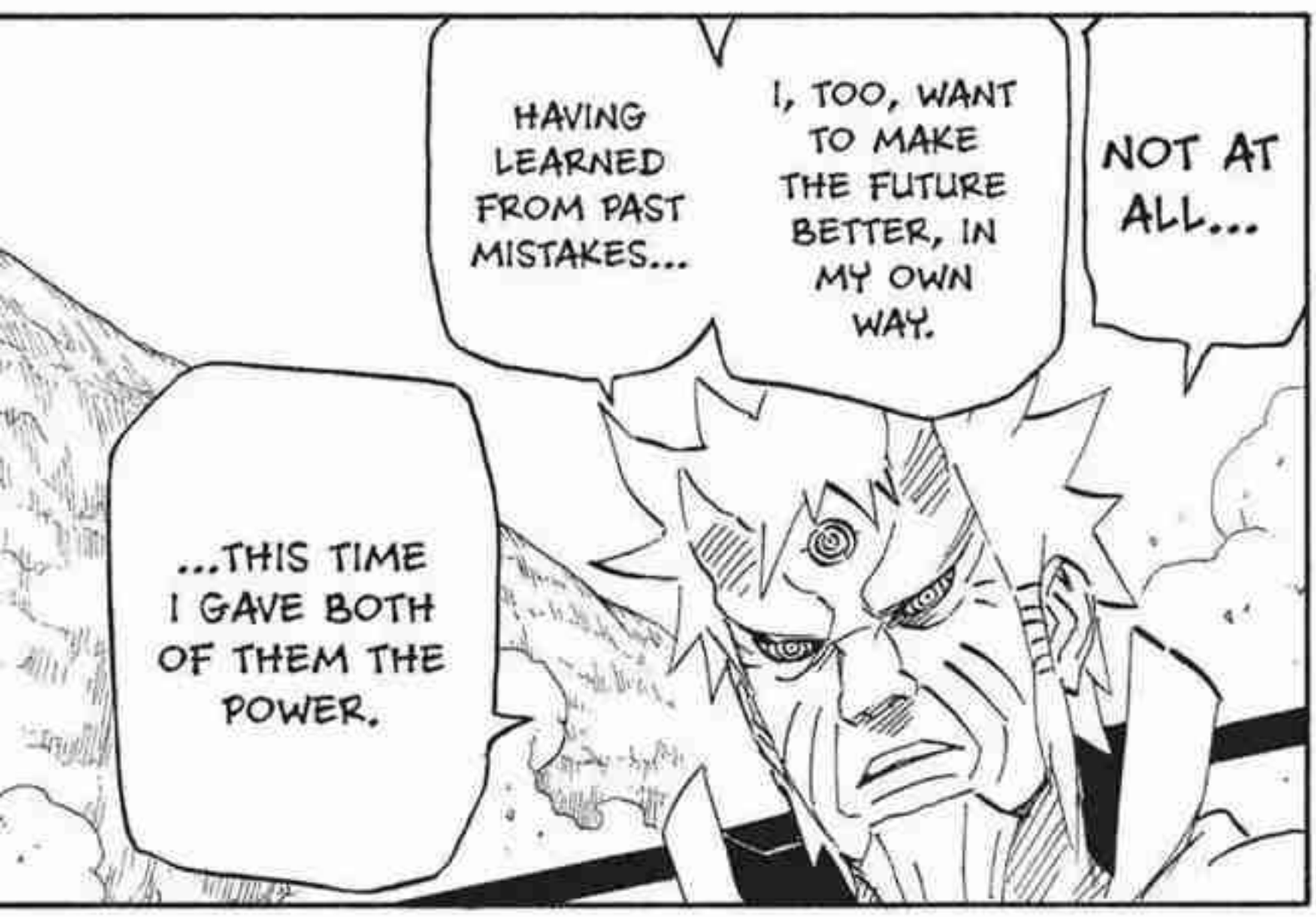


THAT BECAME THE IMPETUS FOR THE OLDER BROTHER TO BEGIN HATING ME AND HIS BROTHER.
BUT I ENTRUSTED EVERYTHING ONLY TO THE YOUNGER BROTHER.

I LOVED THEM BOTH, AND THEY REVERED ME.
I, TOO, ONCE HAD TWO CHILDREN.
...


MADARA WAS THE SAME.
WHAT MOLDED THE CURRENT SASUKE IS NONE OTHER THAN HIS LOSS OF LOVE IN THE PAST...

LOVE HAD TRANSFORMED INTO HATE.


...THIS TIME I GAVE BOTH OF THEM THE POWER.
HAVING LEARNED FROM PAST MISTAKES...
I, TOO, WANT TO MAKE THE FUTURE BETTER, IN MY OWN WAY.
NOT AT ALL...

ARE YOU SAYING SASUKE WILL SHARE...
...THE SAME FATE AS MADARA?
...

I THINK I SHALL LET NARUTO HANDLE THIS...

THE BOY WAS ABLE TO SAVE AND BEFRIEND KURAMA, WHO HAD BECOME A CONCRETION OF HATRED...

UZUMAKI NARUTO...

WHY DO YOU SEE POTENTIAL WITHIN NARUTO?

THE PAST IS SUPPOSED TO EXIST **FOR** THE FUTURE.

THE PAST DOES NOT EXIST TO REMIND THE PRESENT THAT THE FUTURE CANNOT CHANGE.

...NARUTO, AS WELL AS SASUKE, KNOWS WHAT LOVE IS.

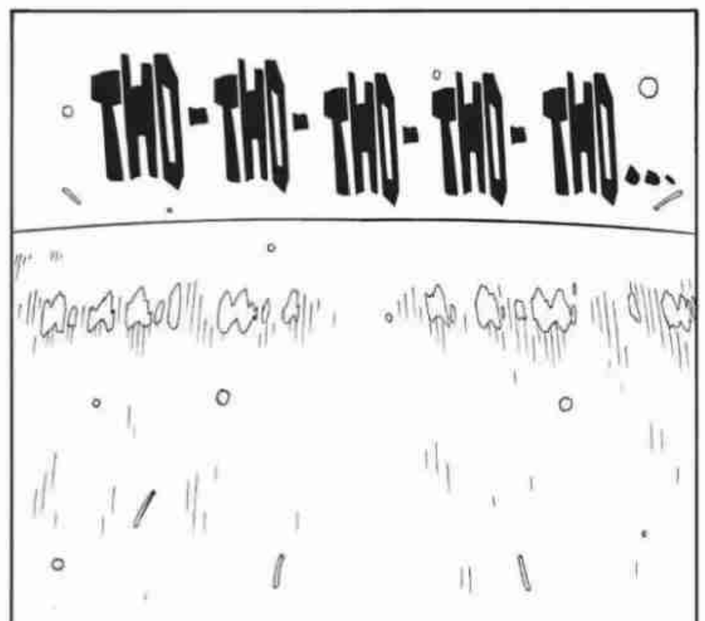
SINCE, UNLIKE MOTHER...

OR RATHER... I HAVE HOPE THAT LOVE CAN BE **REGAINED...**

THP

THP

...SINCE I HOPE THAT HATE CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO LOVE THIS TIME...


THD-THD-THD-THD-THD...

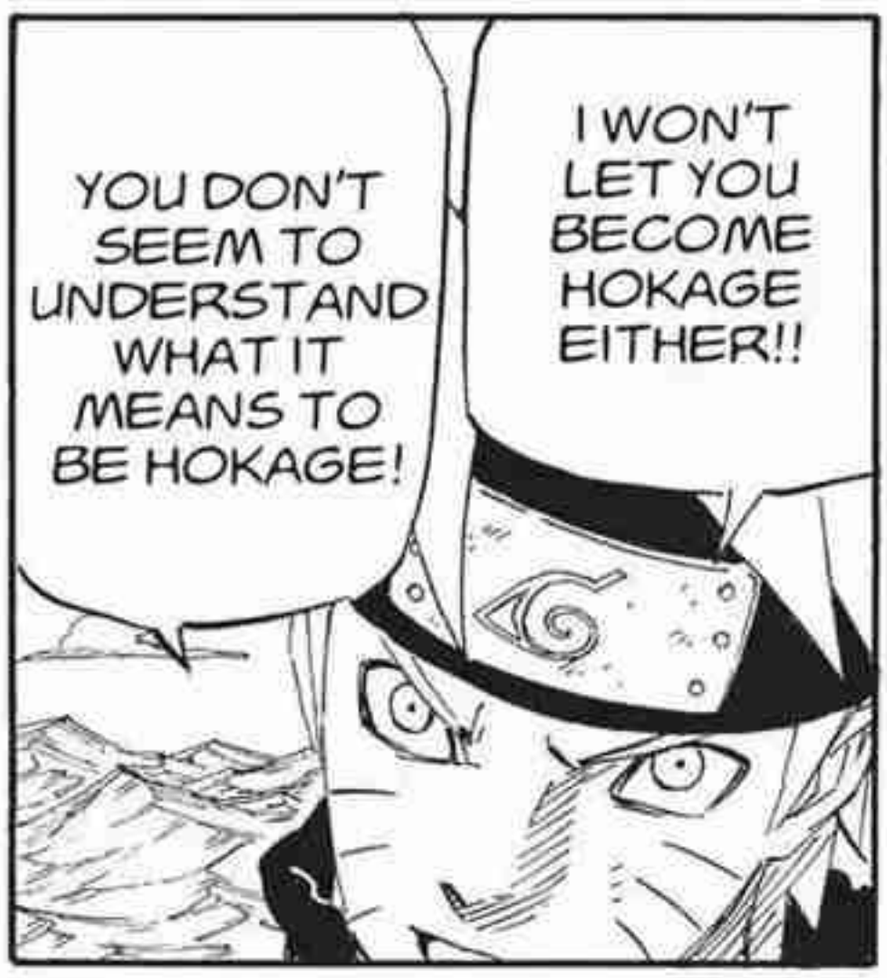
BRINGS BACK MEMORIES EH, SASUKE?

THIS PLACE. I SHOULD'VE FIGURED.

WE FOUGHT EACH OTHER HERE LONG AGO, DIDN'T WE?

IT'LL BE THE SAME THIS TIME.

YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE TO ME HERE AGAIN...



THAT IT'S NOT THE ONE WHO BECOMES HOKAGE WHO GETS ACKNOWLEDGED BY ALL...

...BUT THAT IT'S THE ONE ACKNOWLEDGED BY ALL WHO BECOMES HOKAGE!!

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING YOUR BIG BRO SAID TO ME!

...BEING HOKAGE MEANS REVO-LUTION.

IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU THINK.

I TOLD YOU THAT TO ME...

LET ME CLARIFY THIS BEFORE WE BATTLE.

YOU AND I PRODUCED DIFFERENT ANSWERS.

I LEARNED NOT FROM ITACHI'S WORDS, BUT FROM HIS LIFE ITSELF.

...?!

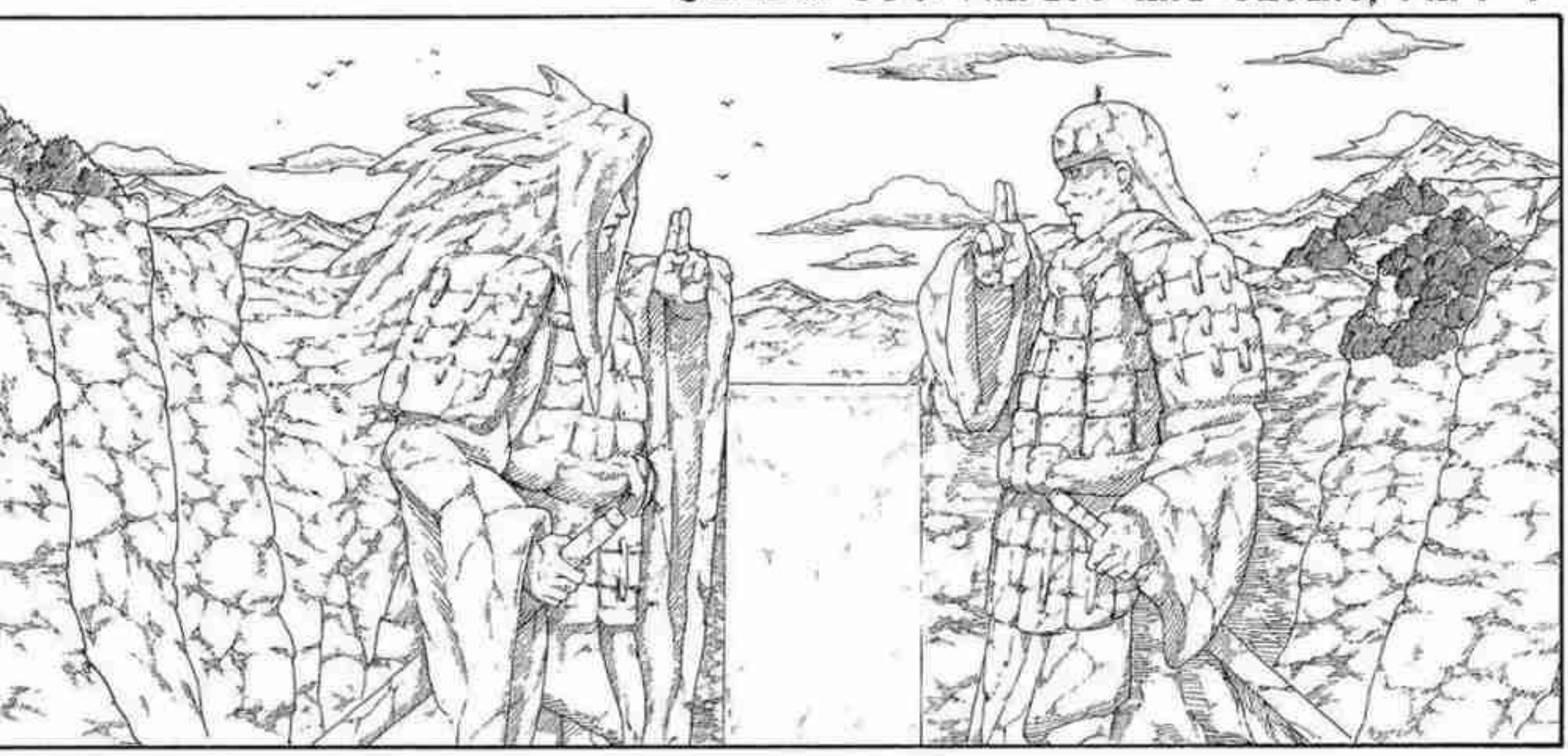
...MEANS TO ME.

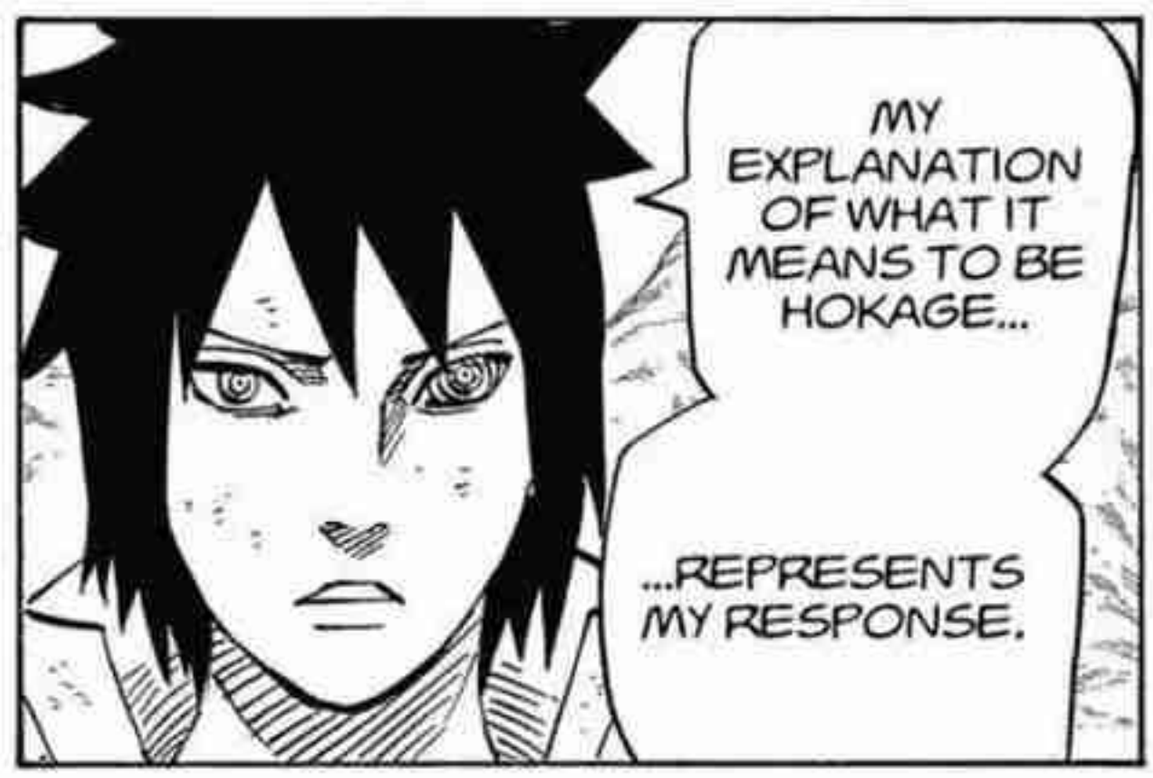
I'LL TEACH YOU EXACTLY WHAT BEING HOKAGE...

END OF SERIES COMMEMORATION ILLUSTRATION (3) KOUICHI NISHIYA

NARUTO THE DRAMATIC DENOUEMENT!

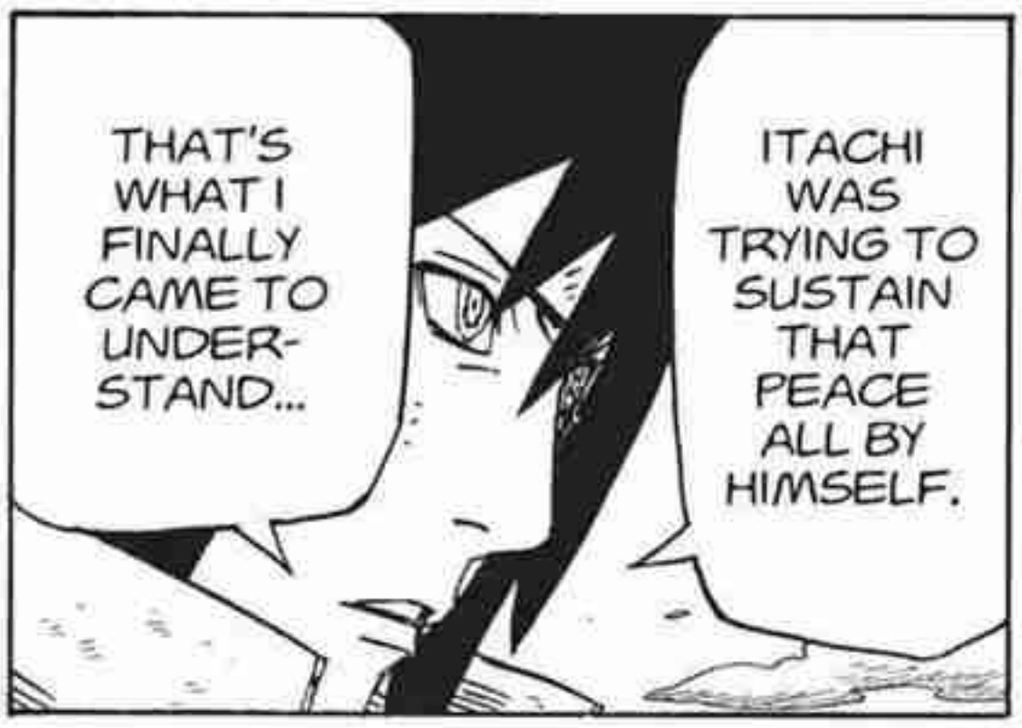
Number 694: Naruto and Sasuke, Part 1

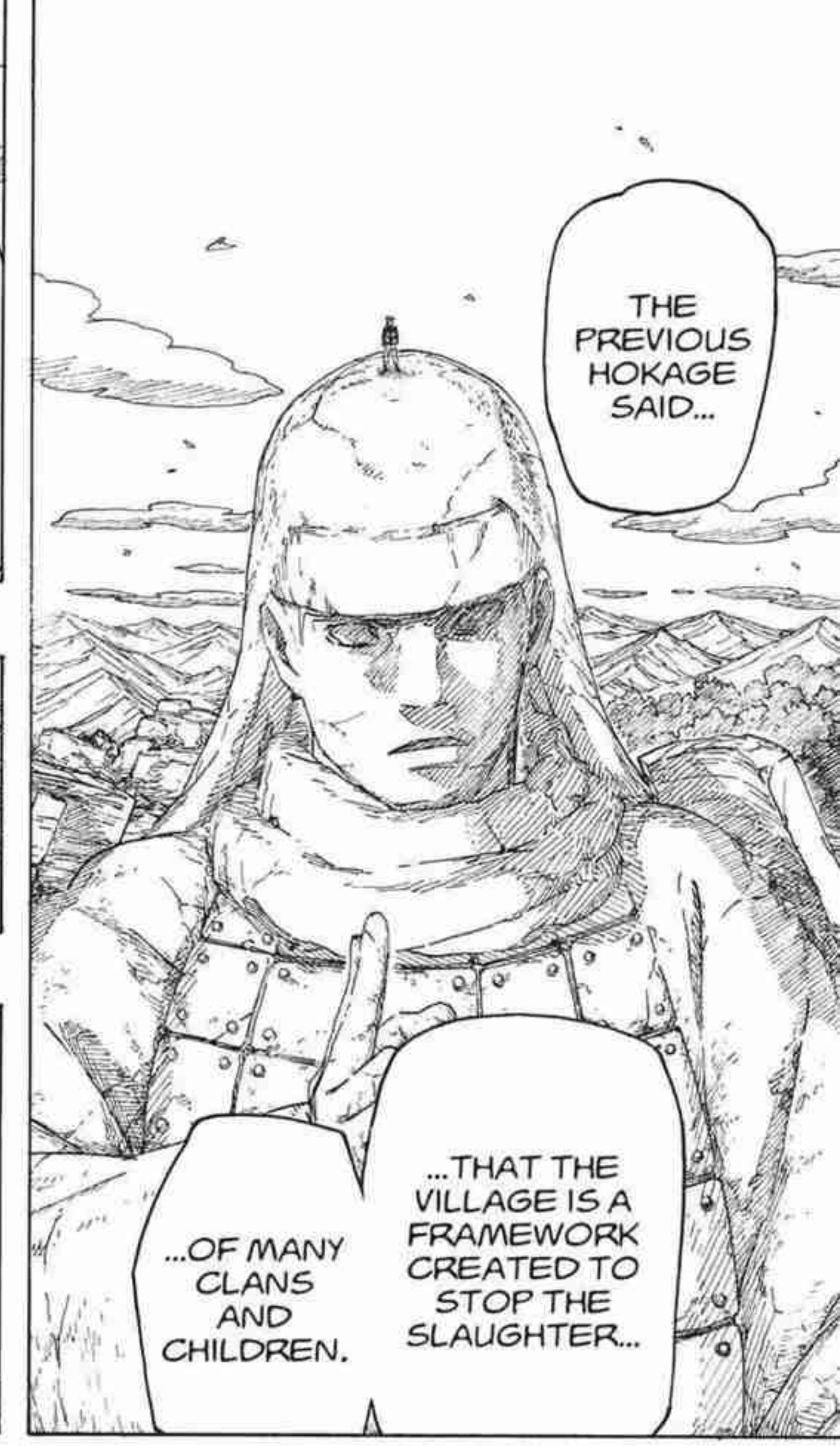




A FRAMEWORK THAT WAS TO LEAD TO PEACE...

...


THAT'S WHAT I FINALLY CAME TO UNDER-STAND...
ITACHI WAS TRYING TO SUSTAIN THAT PEACE ALL BY HIMSELF.


THE PREVIOUS HOKAGE SAID...
...OF MANY CLANS AND CHILDREN.
...THAT THE VILLAGE IS A FRAMEWORK CREATED TO STOP THE SLAUGHTER...

...AND LIVING IN DARKNESS AS A CRIMINAL AND TRAITOR AGAINST LAND AND VILLAGE...
...HE WAS A SHINOBI WHO TOOK ON ALL HATRED AND PROTECTED THE LAND OF FIRE AND KONOHAGAKURE FROM THE SHADOWS...
SUFFERING BITTER EXPERIENCES ...

...

...THAT HE WAS THE TRUE HOKAGE.
I FEEL...

...I EVENTUALLY CAME TO UNDERSTAND ITACHI'S FEELINGS FOR HIS LAND AND VILLAGE.
AND...

...BUT THE ONE WHO ACCEPTS ALL THE HATRED THAT IS WORTHY OF THAT TITLE.
IT'S NOT THE ONE ACKNOW-LEDGED BY ALL...

...

I HAVE NO FATHER, MOTHER, BROTHER...
...NOT EVEN A SINGLE OTHER MEMBER OF MY CLAN.

HOW-EVER...
I AM NOT LIKE MY BIG BROTHER ANYMORE.

...?

BY LEAVING ME, HIS LITTLE BROTHER, ALIVE, AND BEING UNABLE TO HIDE THE TRUTH FROM ME...
BUT MY BROTHER MADE JUST ONE MISTAKE.
...HE ALLOWED THE HATRED TO DISSEMINATE.

I ALONE CAN BEAR THE WEIGHT OF ALL THE HATRED NOW.

I AM ALONE.

...ALL JUDGMENT AND PUNISHMENT.

I SHALL ALSO DISPENSE...

AND I MYSELF WILL DEAL WITH EVERYTHING PERSONALLY.

I WILL HANDLE ALL OF THE SHINOBI PROBLEMS.

TWITCH

IN WHICH CASE, I'D RATHER...

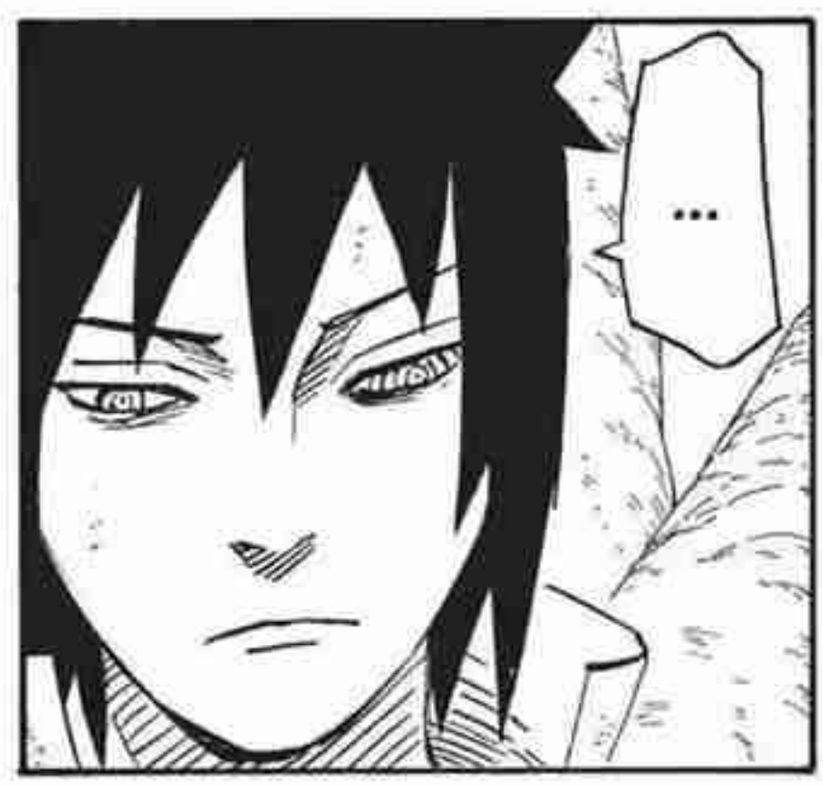
HATRED INSIDE DARKNESS CANNOT BE ELIMINATED.

THD- THD- THD- THD- THD-

I'LL CONCENTRATE ALL HATRED UPON MYSELF...

...AND BRING TOGETHER EVERY SINGLE VILLAGE UNDER MY CONTROL.

THAT'S RIGHT...
...WHAT HOKAGE IS TO ME...


...

...IS SOMEONE WHO SEARS AWAY THE DARKNESS OF ALL FIVE VILLAGES WITH ONLY HIS OWN FLAME...
AND THEN KEEPS LIVING ON BY EATING THE ASHES.

Is that your response?

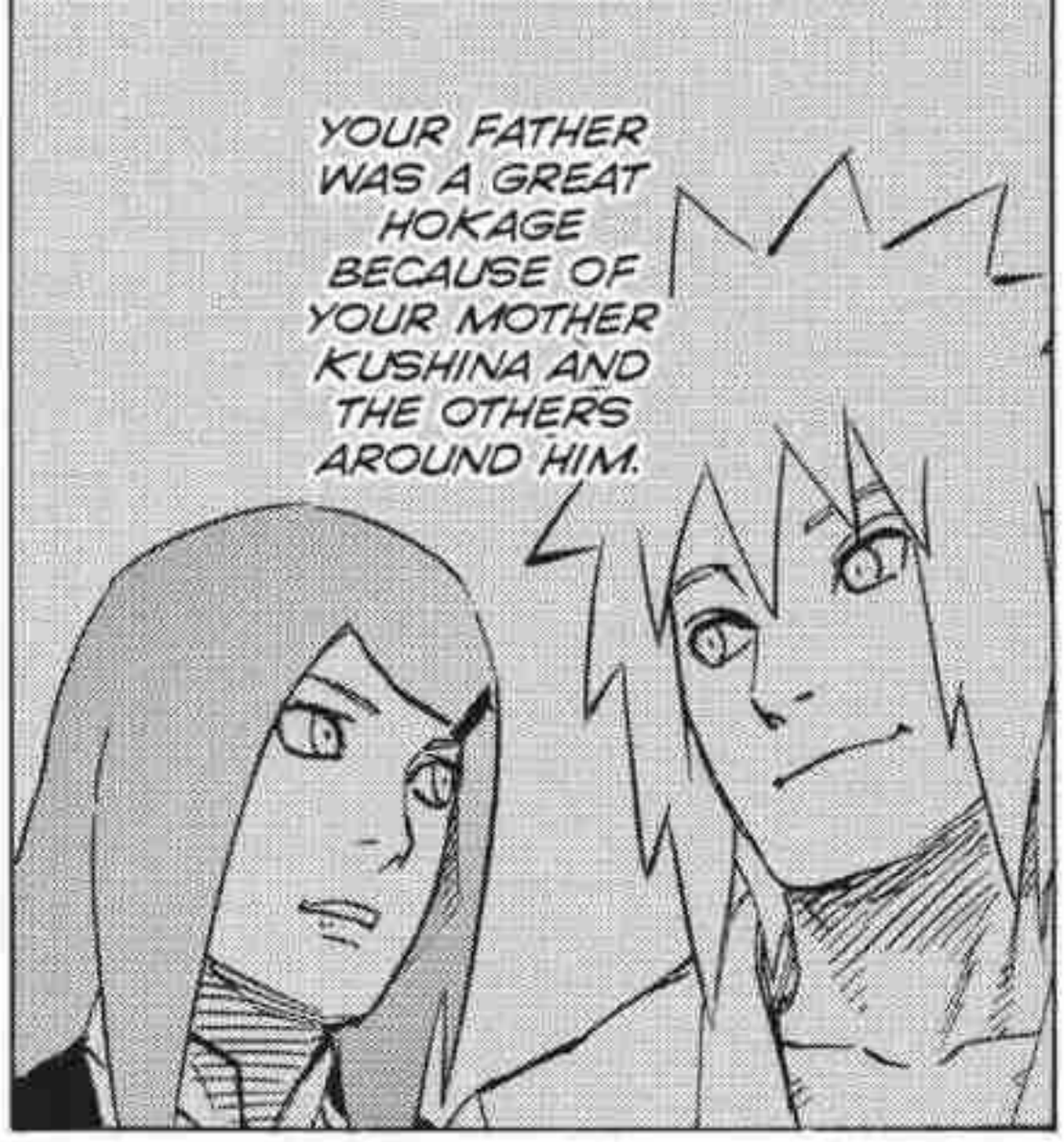
DO YOU REALLY THINK EVERYONE'D SAY "YES" TO THAT?!
...

AND I HAVE THE POWER NOW TO CONTROL IT ALL.
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT ANY OF YOU THINK OF ME.

I CAN TAKE IT ALL ON!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS WAR, ALL BY MYSELF!!
IT'S MY DUTY!!

!

...YOU'LL EVENTUALLY BECOME LIKE MADARA.
BUT IF YOU FORGET THAT, IF YOU BECOME SO POWERFUL THAT YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHY YOU ARE NOW STRONG...
YOU SAID IT WAS EVERYONE WHO CARES ABOUT YOU WHO HELPED YOU GET WHERE YOU ARE.


YOUR FATHER WAS A GREAT HOKAGE BECAUSE OF YOUR MOTHER KUSHINA AND THE OTHERS AROUND HIM.

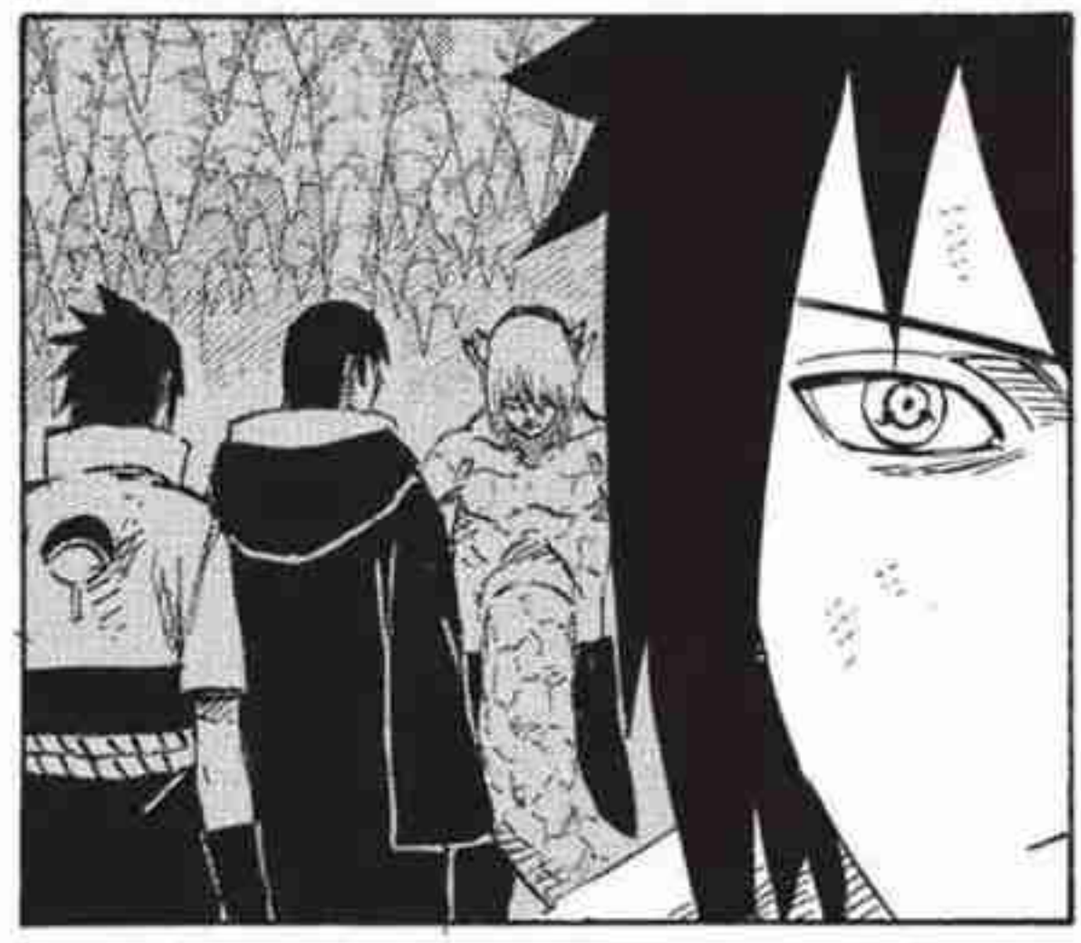
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL YOU BECOME, NEVER TRY TO TAKE IT ALL ON BY YOURSELF.
YOU'LL JUST FAIL.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ITACHI'S LIFE PATH AT ALL!

THIS TIME, I LEAVE THE TASK TO A FRIEND.
I TRIED TO DO EVERYTHING BY MYSELF TOO. I FAILED.

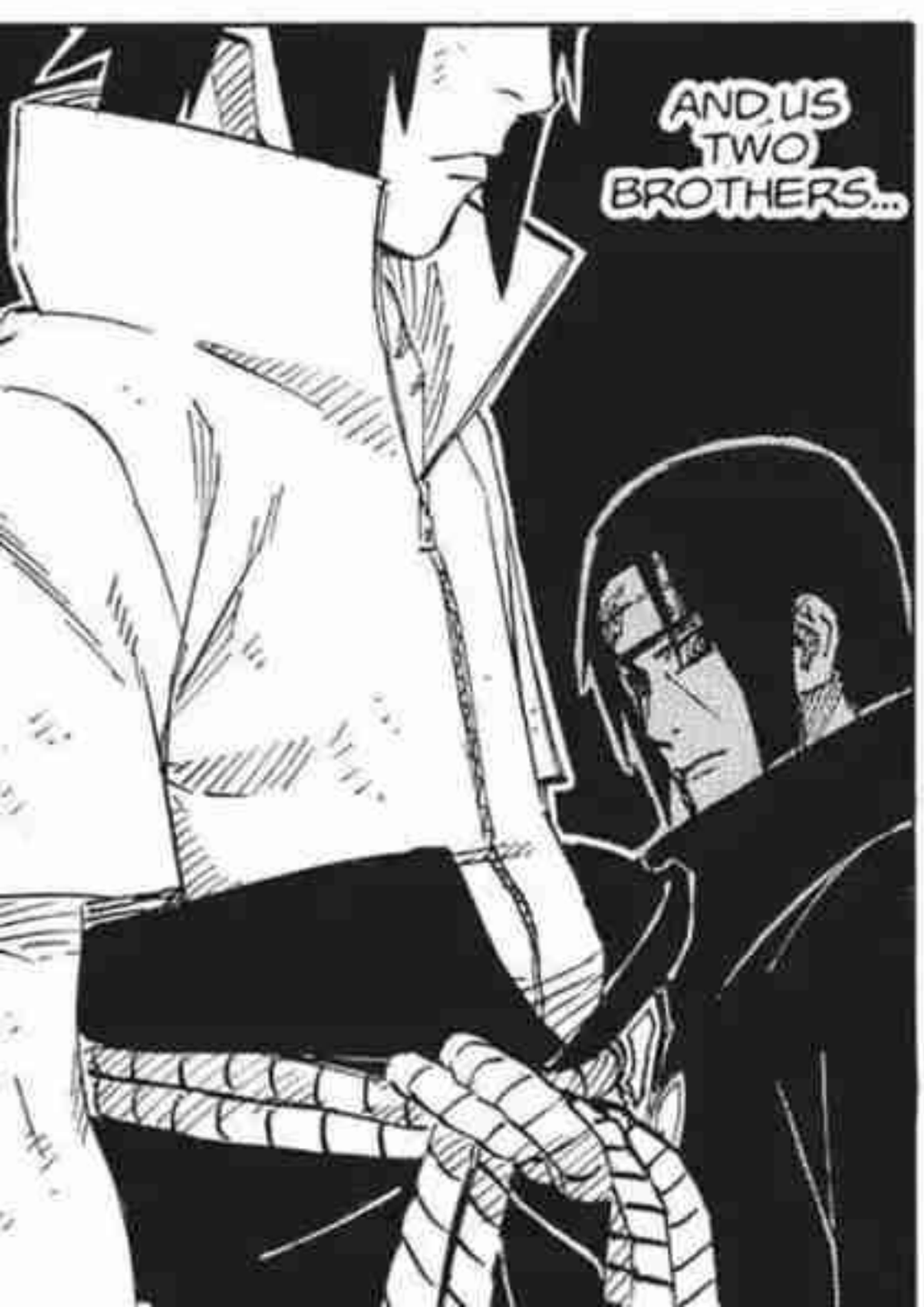
LIKE OUR BATTLE AGAINST KAGUYA. REMEMBER ?!!
THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN'T DO ALONE!!

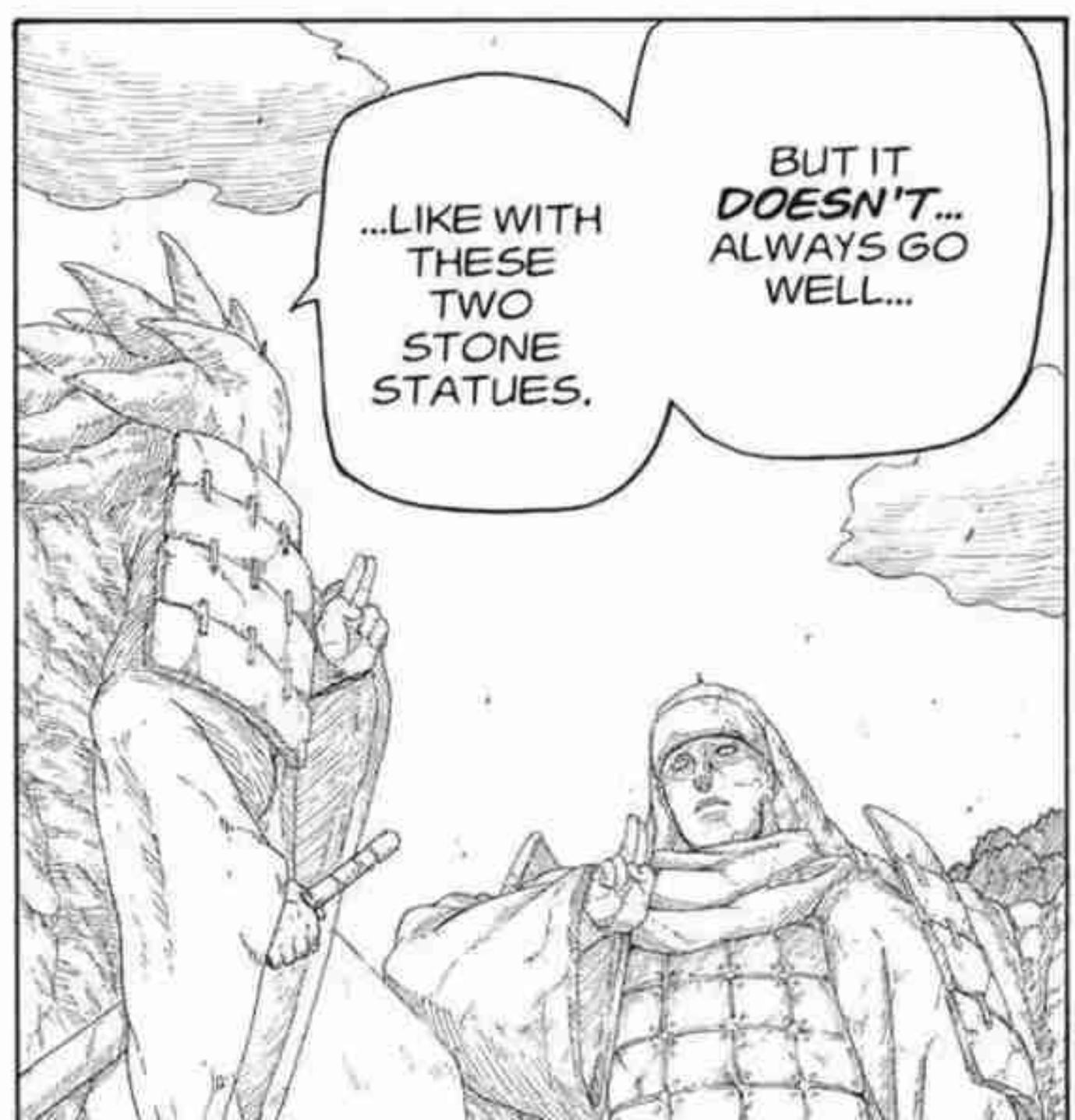
IT MAY BE...
...THAT A PERFECT BEING DOES NOT EXIST AT ALL IN THIS WORLD.



...

THEY CAN ONLY SUCCEED WHEN ACTUALLY WORKING TOGETHER.
SOMETIMES TWO WHO SEEM OPPOSITES ARE ACTUALLY TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.


AND US TWO BROTHERS...

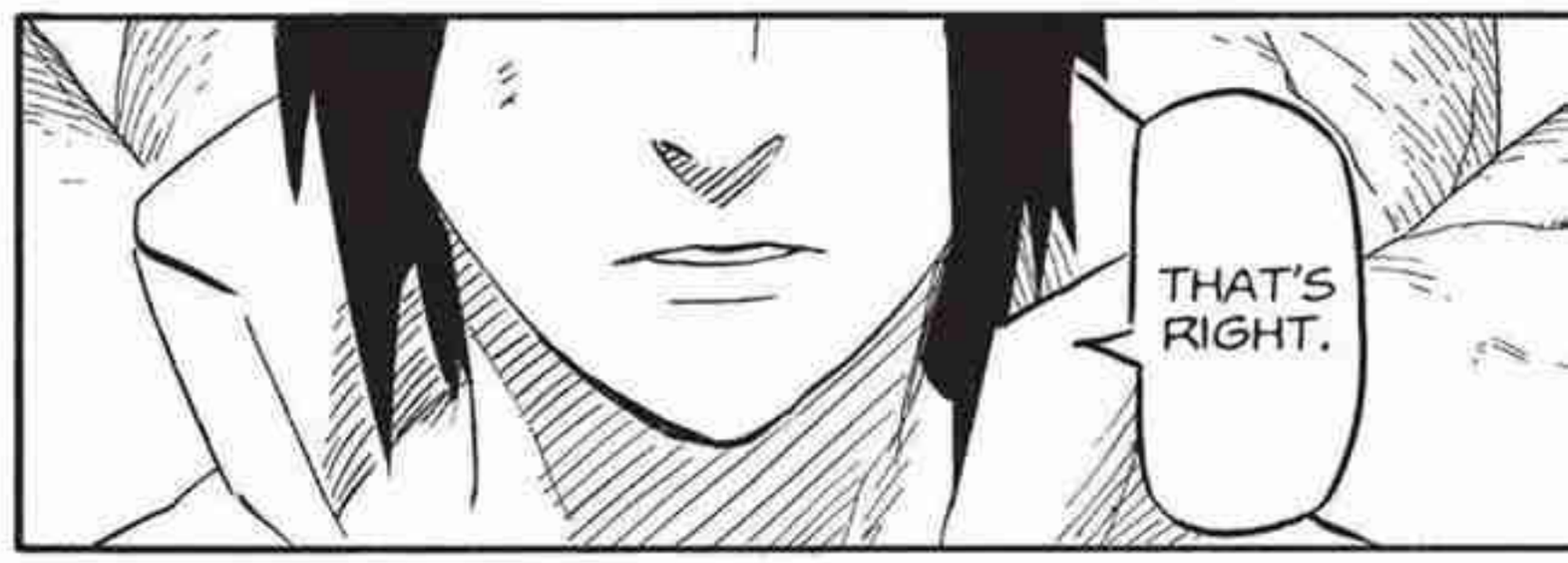

...LIKE WITH THESE TWO STONE STATUES.
BUT IT DOESN'T... ALWAYS GO WELL...

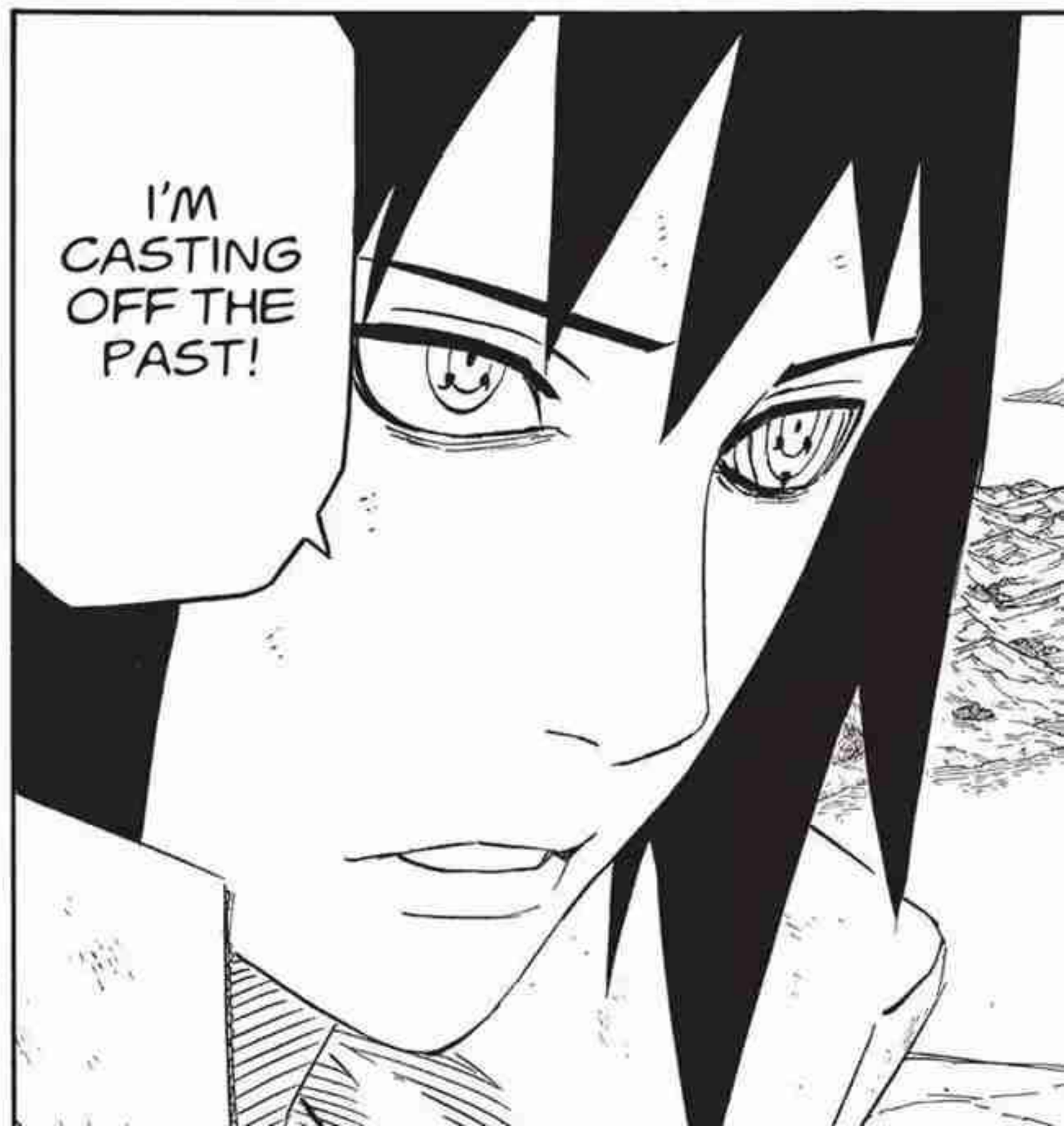
YOU MEAN BY KILLING THE BIJU...
...AND TAKING DOWN ALL THE PREVIOUS GOKAGE?!!

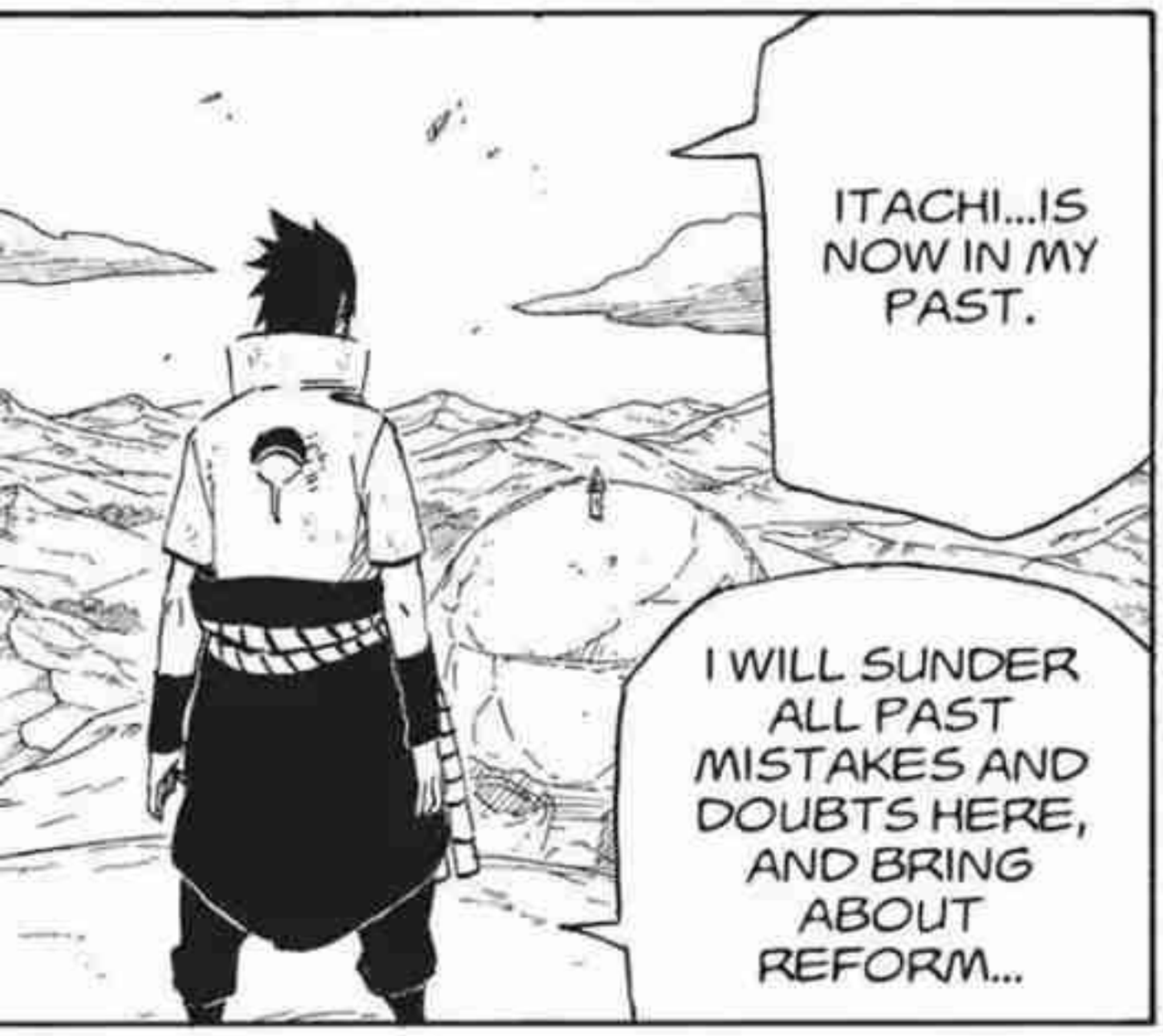
...AND BUILD A PURE WHITE FUTURE FROM SCRATCH.
I'LL DISPOSE OF THE DEEP DARKNESS OF THE PAST...

...THE VILLAGES WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO BEAR DARKNESS.
I WILL BECOME THE ONE AND ONLY DARKNESS.
WITH REVOLUTION ...

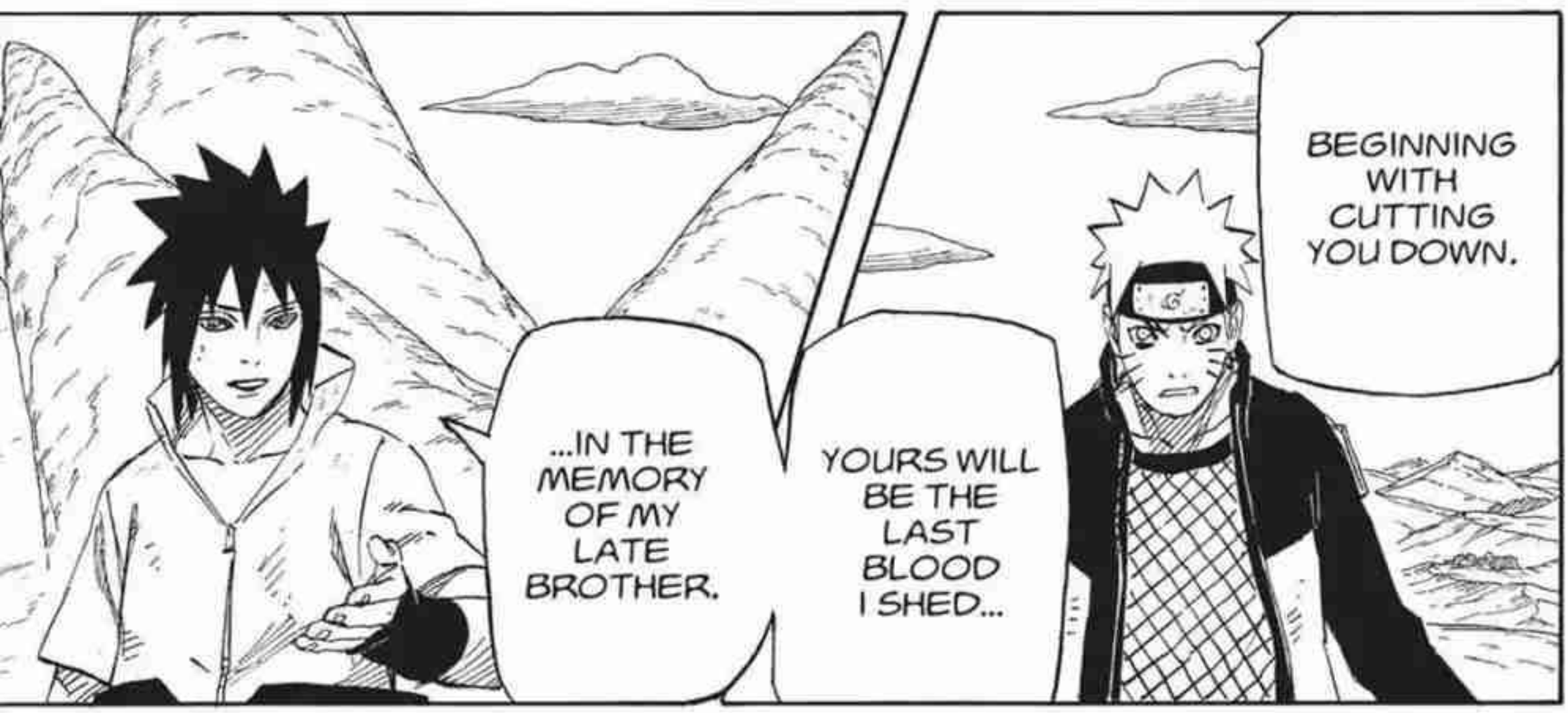
GRIND...


THAT'S RIGHT.


I'M CASTING OFF THE PAST!

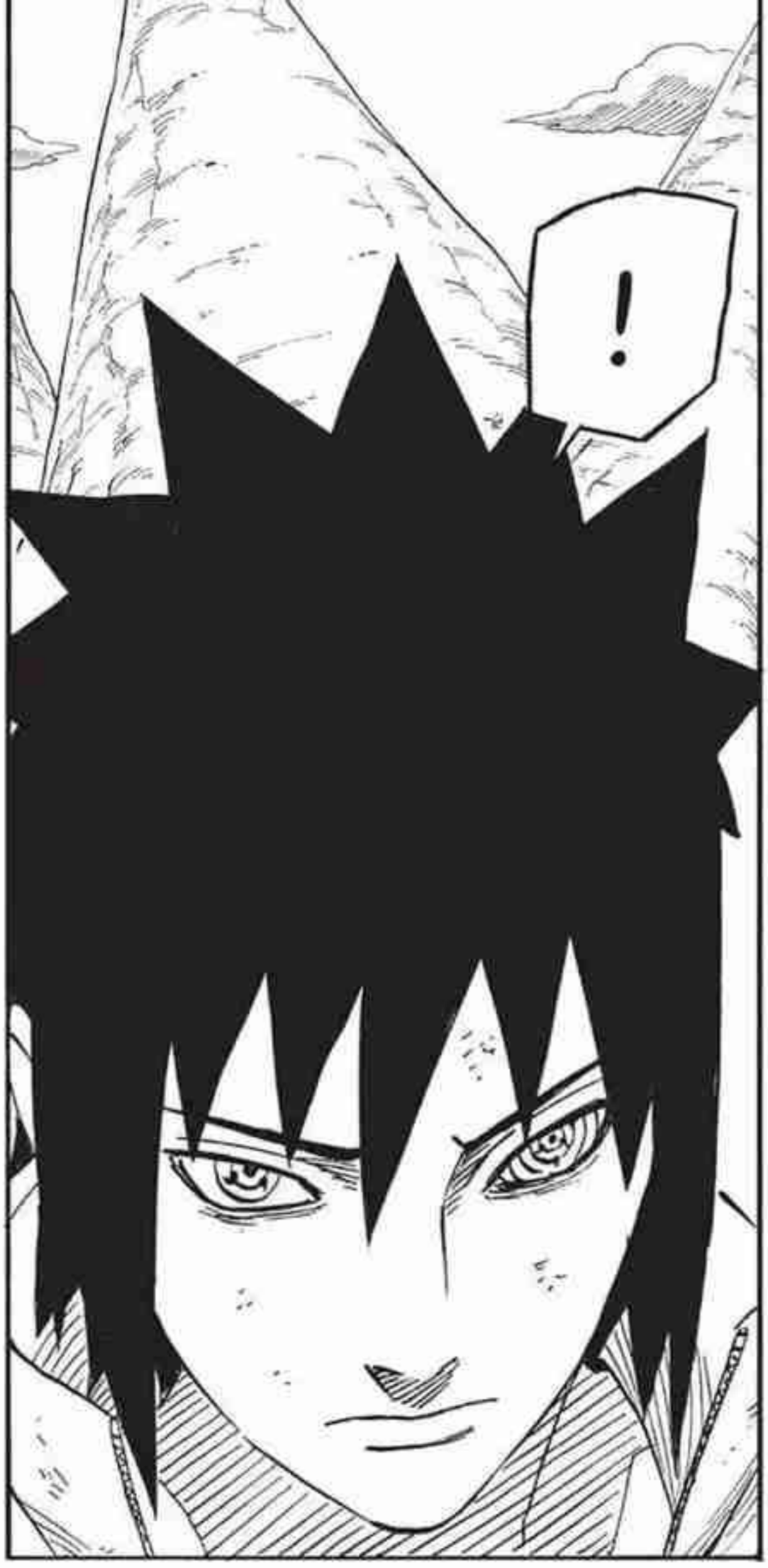

ITACHI...IS NOW IN MY PAST.
I WILL SUNDER ALL PAST MISTAKES AND DOUBTS HERE, AND BRING ABOUT REFORM...

YOU SHARE A BLOOD BOND, AND LOTS WENT ON BETWEEN YOU...
YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN PRETEND NOTHING EVER HAPPENED WITH ITACHI?! YEAH, RIGHT!!
THAT'S HOW YOU BECAME YOU!


...IN THE MEMORY OF MY LATE BROTHER.
YOURS WILL BE THE LAST BLOOD I SHED...
BEGINNING WITH CUTTING YOU DOWN.

I LEAVE SASUKE TO YOU.

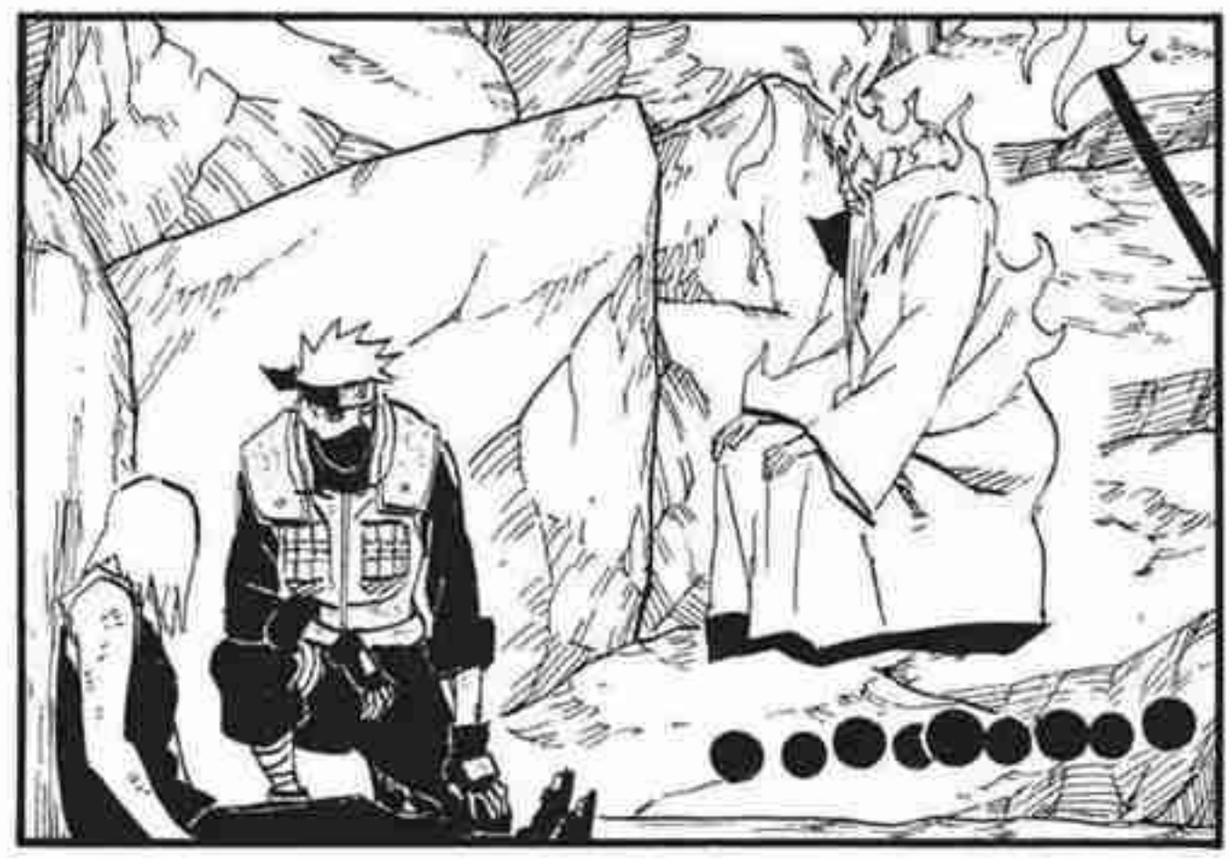
YOU SAID YOU CONSIDER SASUKE A BROTHER.
I KNEW YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD STOP SASUKE.


!

I WON'T LET YOU!!
THAT'S WHY...!

ESPECIALLY ABOUT HOW TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO AFTER MAKING A MISTAKE!
I LEARNED EVERYTHING I KNOW FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE PAST!

LORD SAGE...
!
IT SEEMS IT IS ALMOST TIME.



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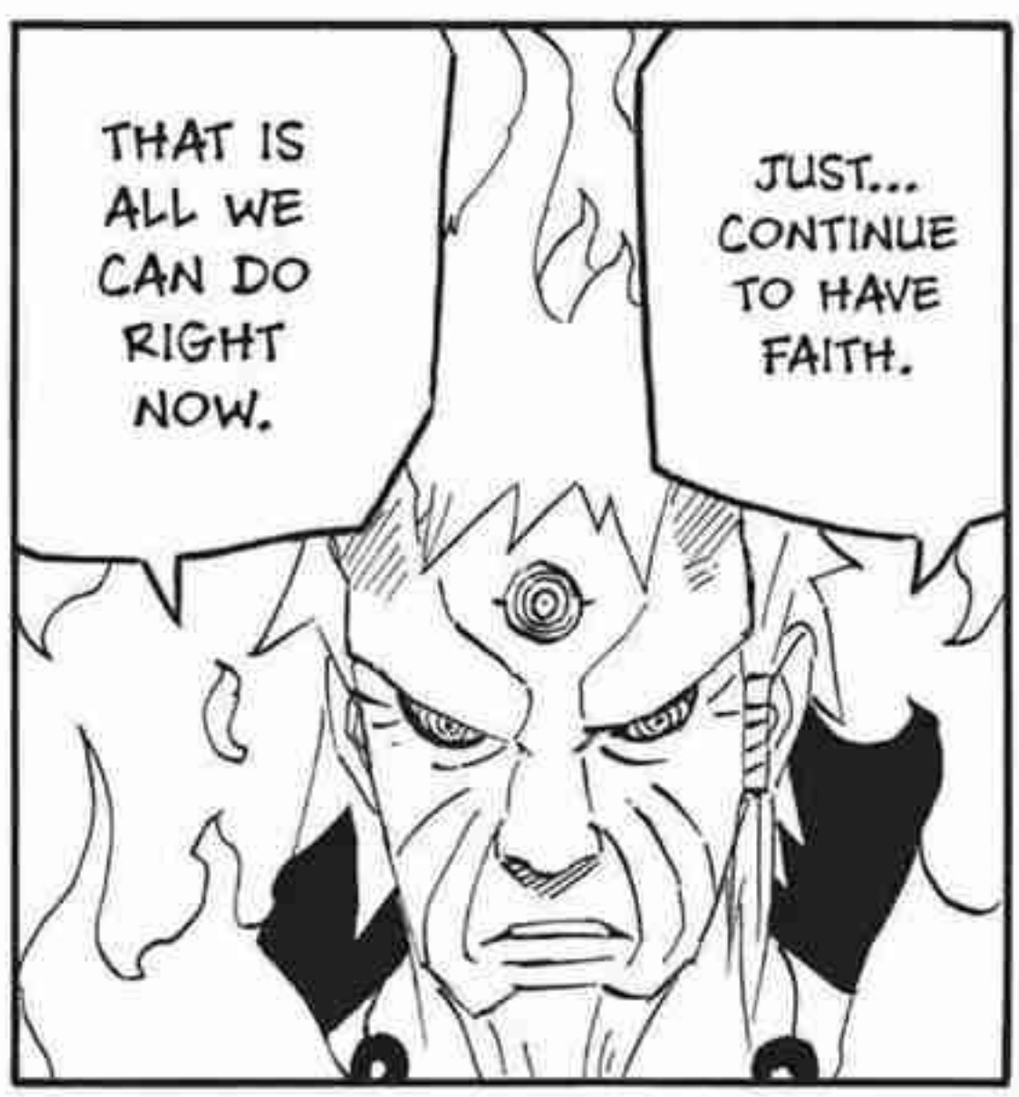
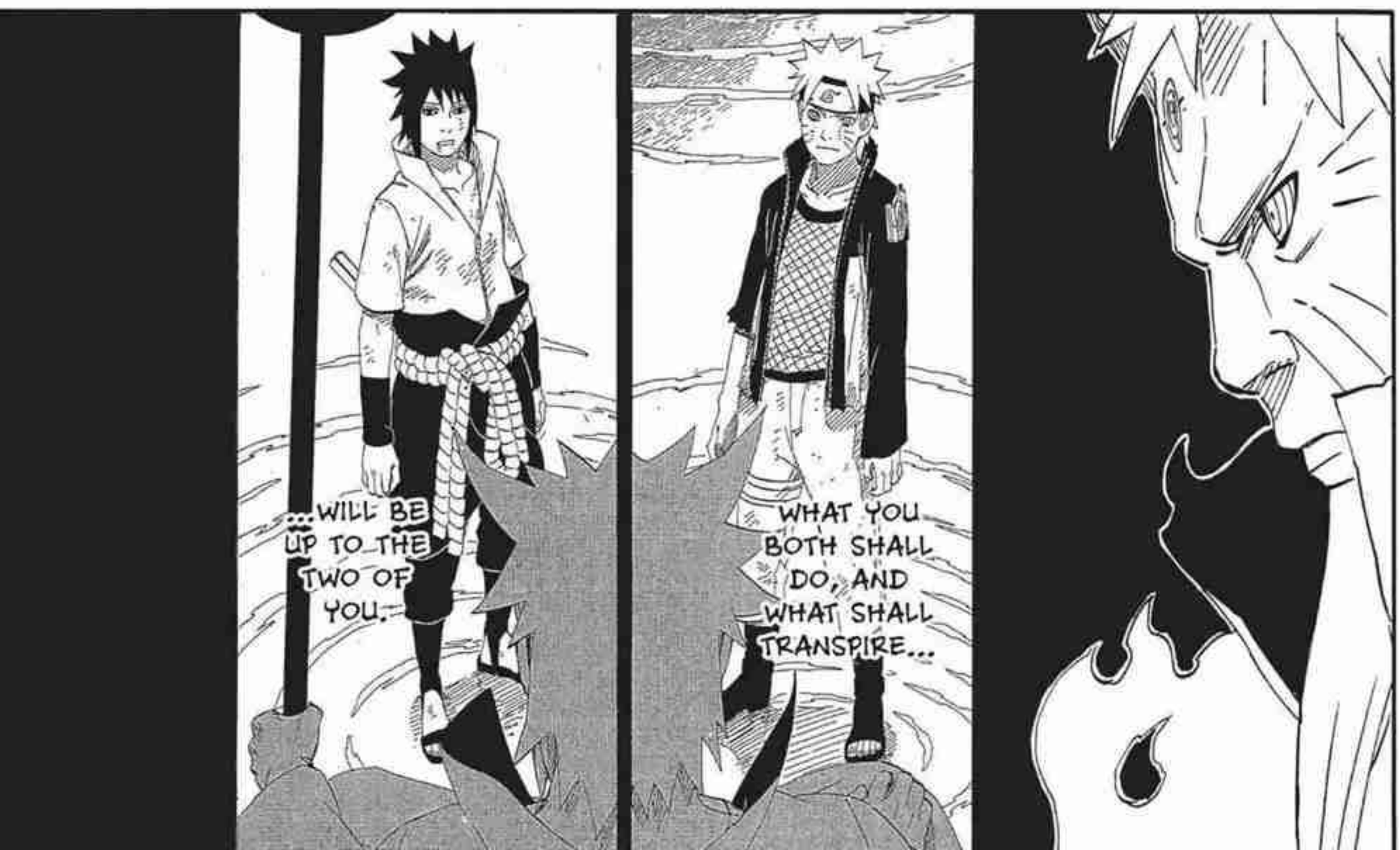

THAT IS ALL WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW.
JUST... CONTINUE TO HAVE FAITH.

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING...?
WHAT...


...WILL BE UP TO THE TWO OF YOU.
WHAT YOU BOTH SHALL DO, AND WHAT SHALL TRANSPIRE...

...

...

BUT NARUTO... HE IS THE ONE PERSON I HAVE TO CUT DOWN.
NOW THAT ITACHI IS GONE, I FEEL LIKE I'M FINALLY, TRULY ALONE.

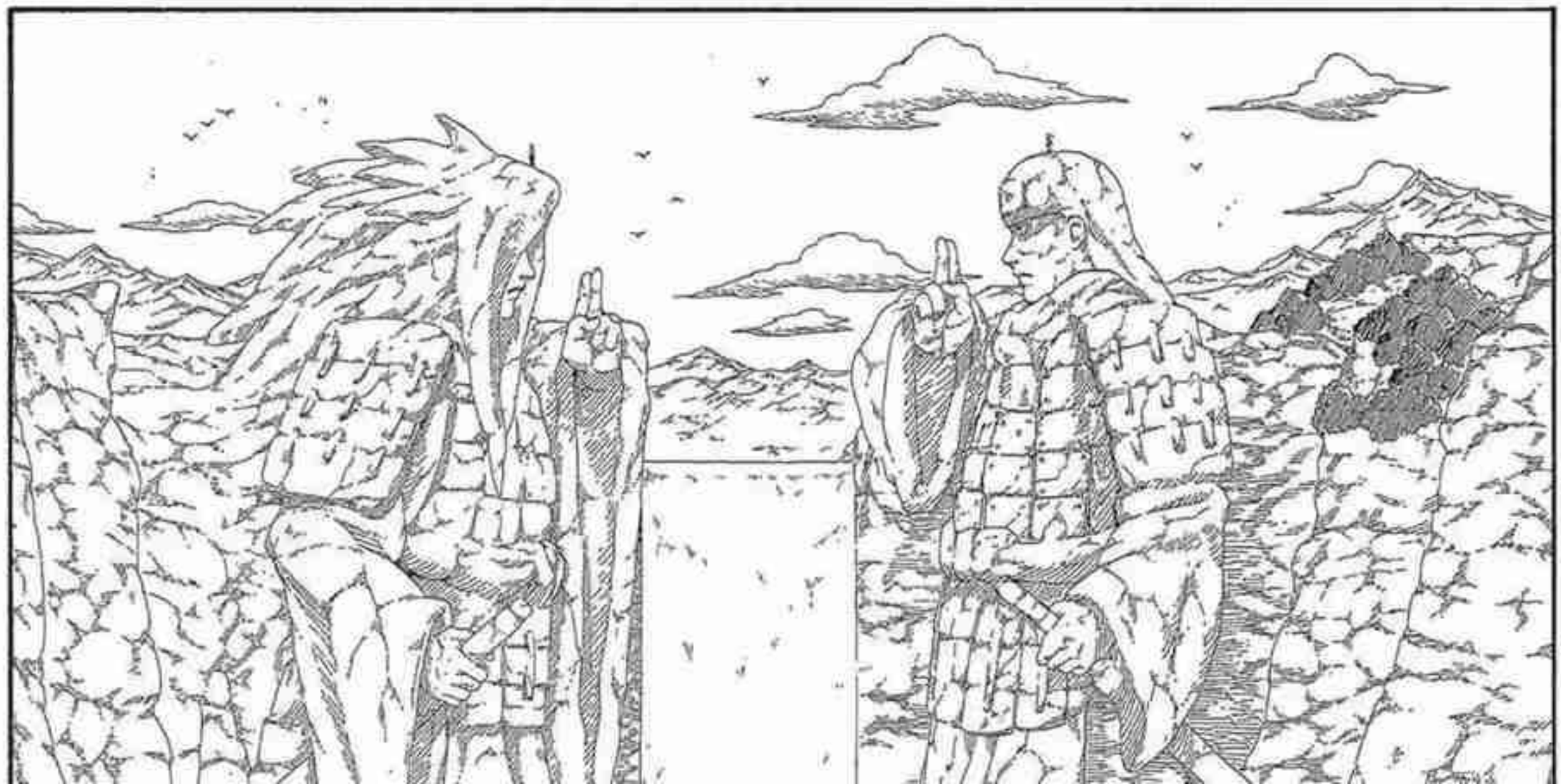
...BUT I REALLY BELIEVE THAT WE CAN MAKE PEACE.
ME AND SASUKE MAY NOT BE TRUE BROTHERS...

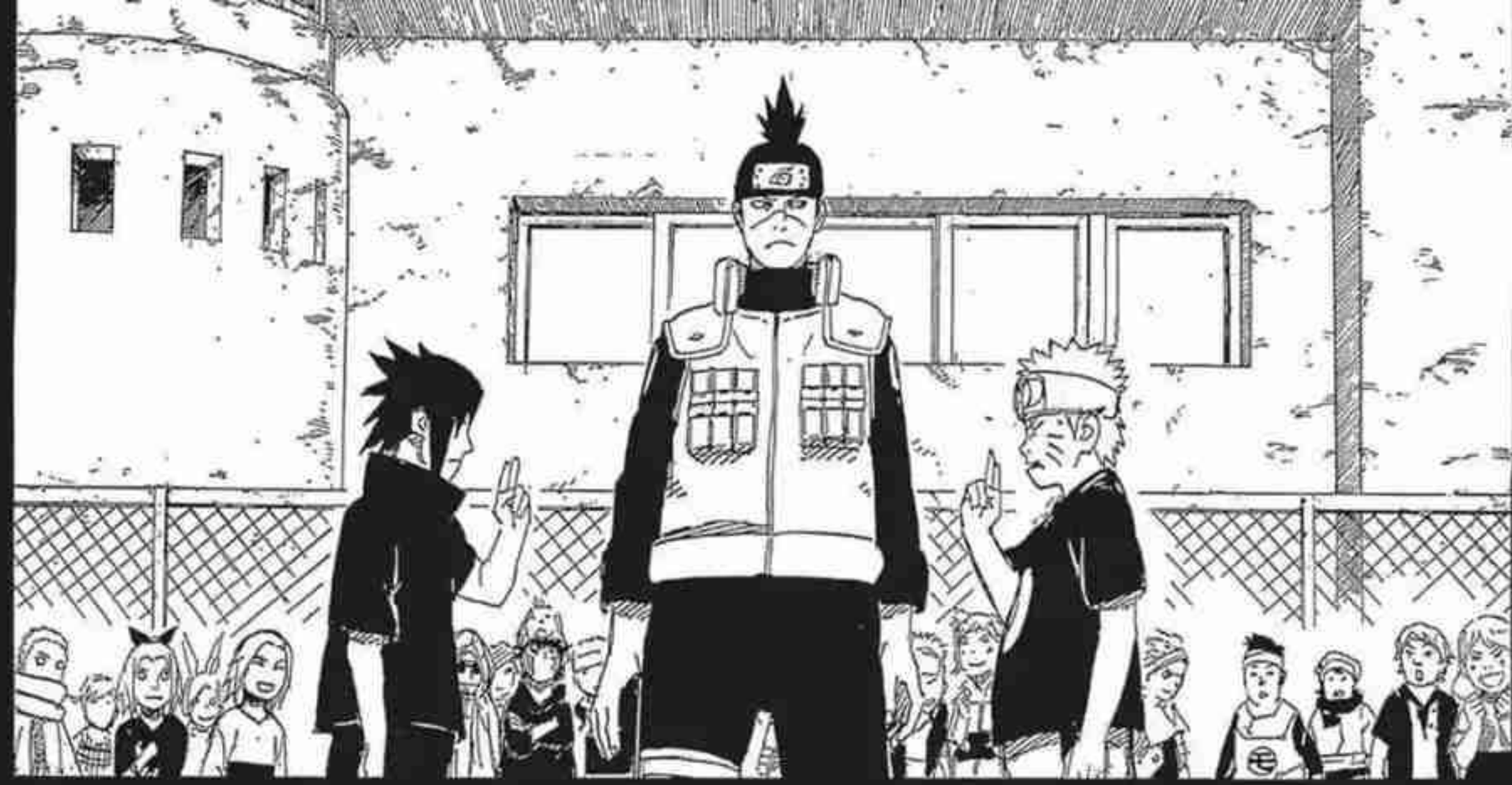
MY VERSION OF HOKAGE CAN ONLY COME TO BE BY SEVERING ALL TIES AND BEING ALONE.

WHY NARUTO?

...HE IS STILL MY CLOSEST FRIEND.
BECAUSE TO ME...

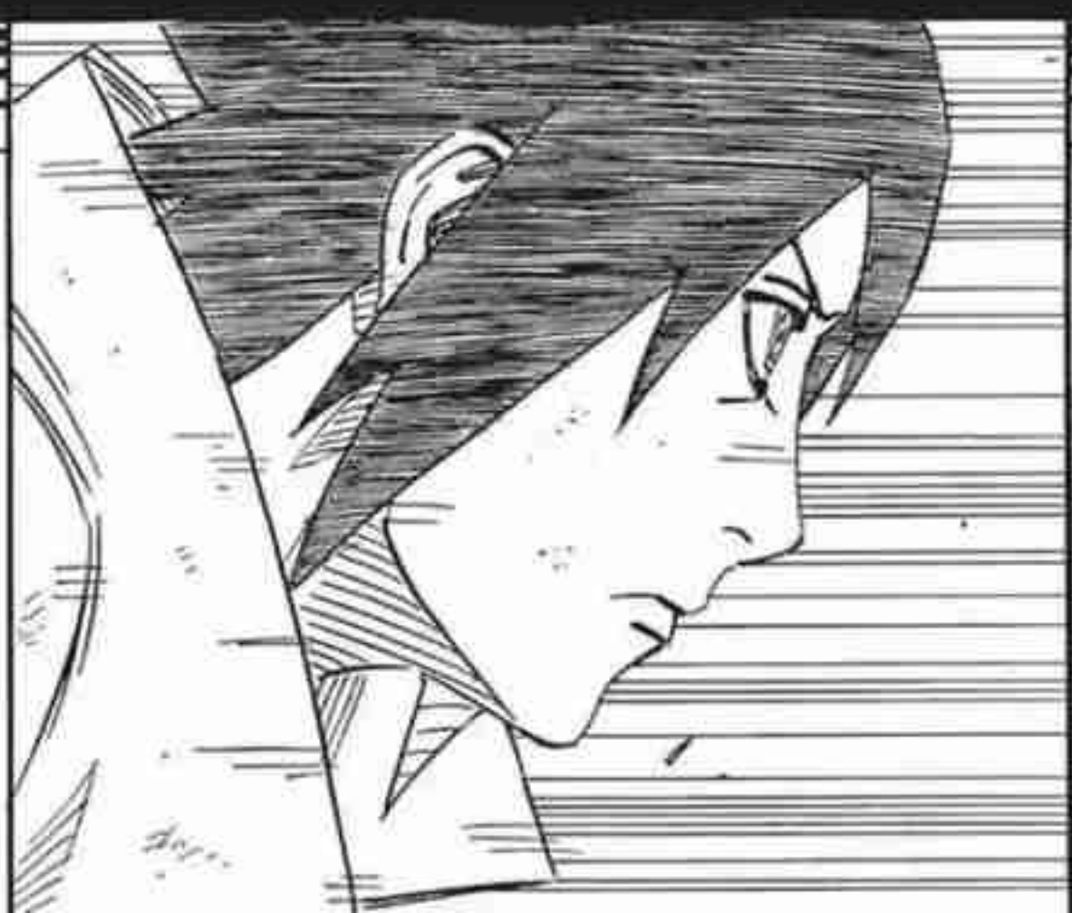
CUZ WE'RE PRETTY GOOD FRIENDS.





NARUTO

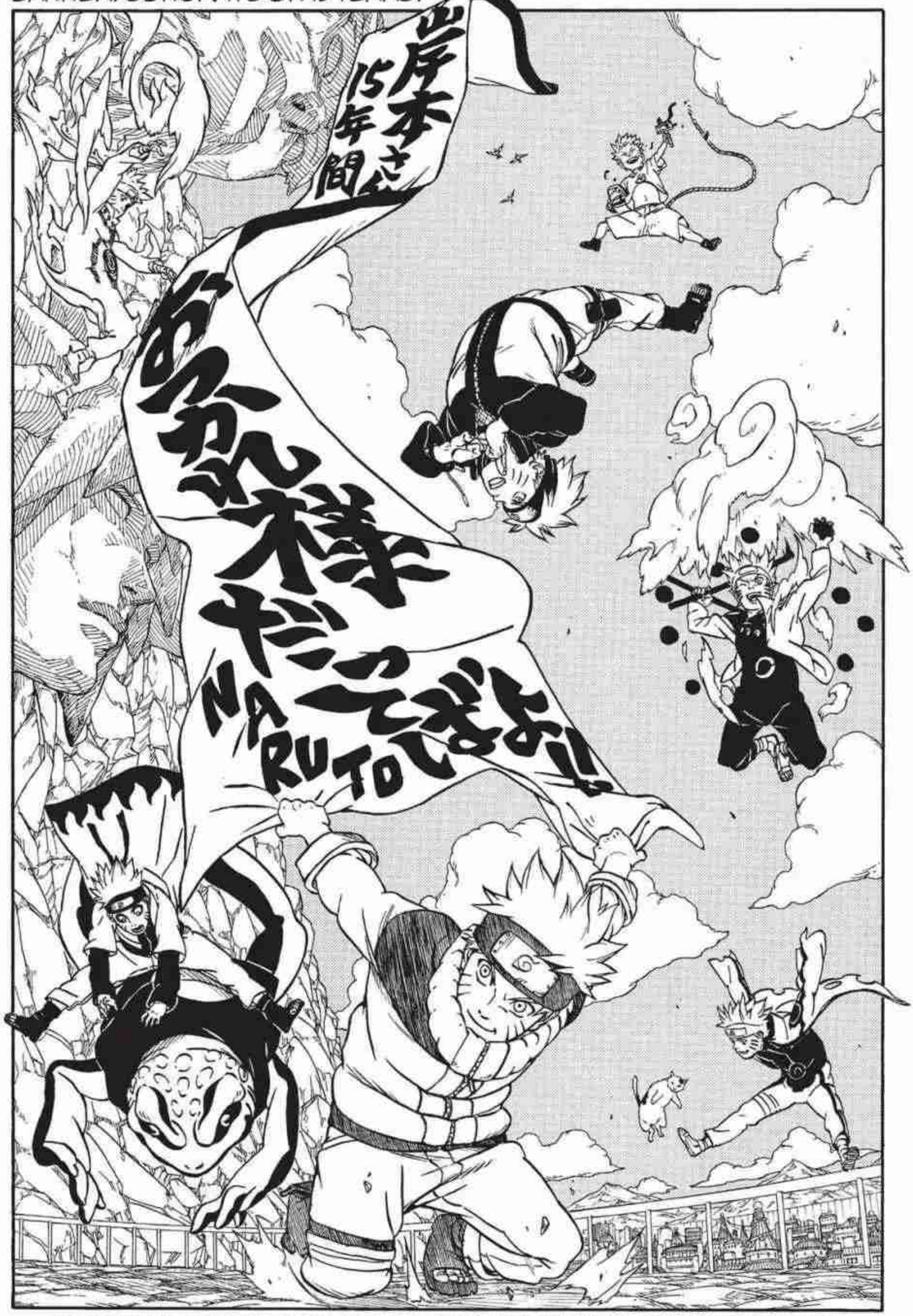
TA
K



THAK

END OF SERIES COMMEMORATION ILLUSTRATION (4)

BANNER: CONGRATS ON 15 YEARS!



IT IS A LIFETIME HONOR THAT I, WHO WAS ORIGINALLY JUST A FAN, GOT TO BE INVOLVED WITH NARUTO FOR 8 YEARS. -AKIO SHIRASAKA

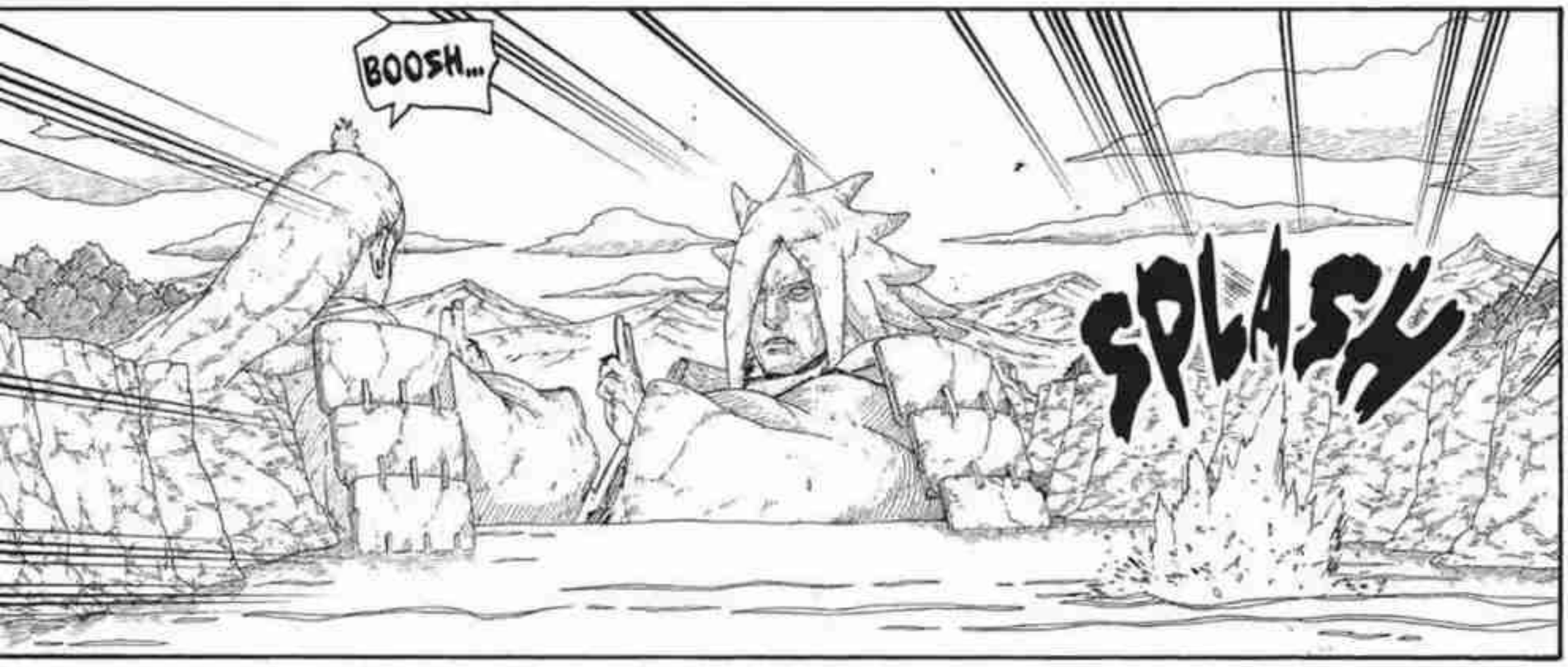
Number 695: Naruto and Sasuke, Part 2

Number 695: Naruto and Sasuke, Part 2

NARUTO

FWP
FWP
TAK
KYO
FIRE STYLE!
FIREBALL
TECHNIQUE!!
S
UH
OWE
BZ
WHAP...
AZ

BZZZ
!
FFT
HIS LEFT EYE IS...
FFT
GAH!
K


BOOSH...
SPLASH

SOOSH

!!
TINK
TINK

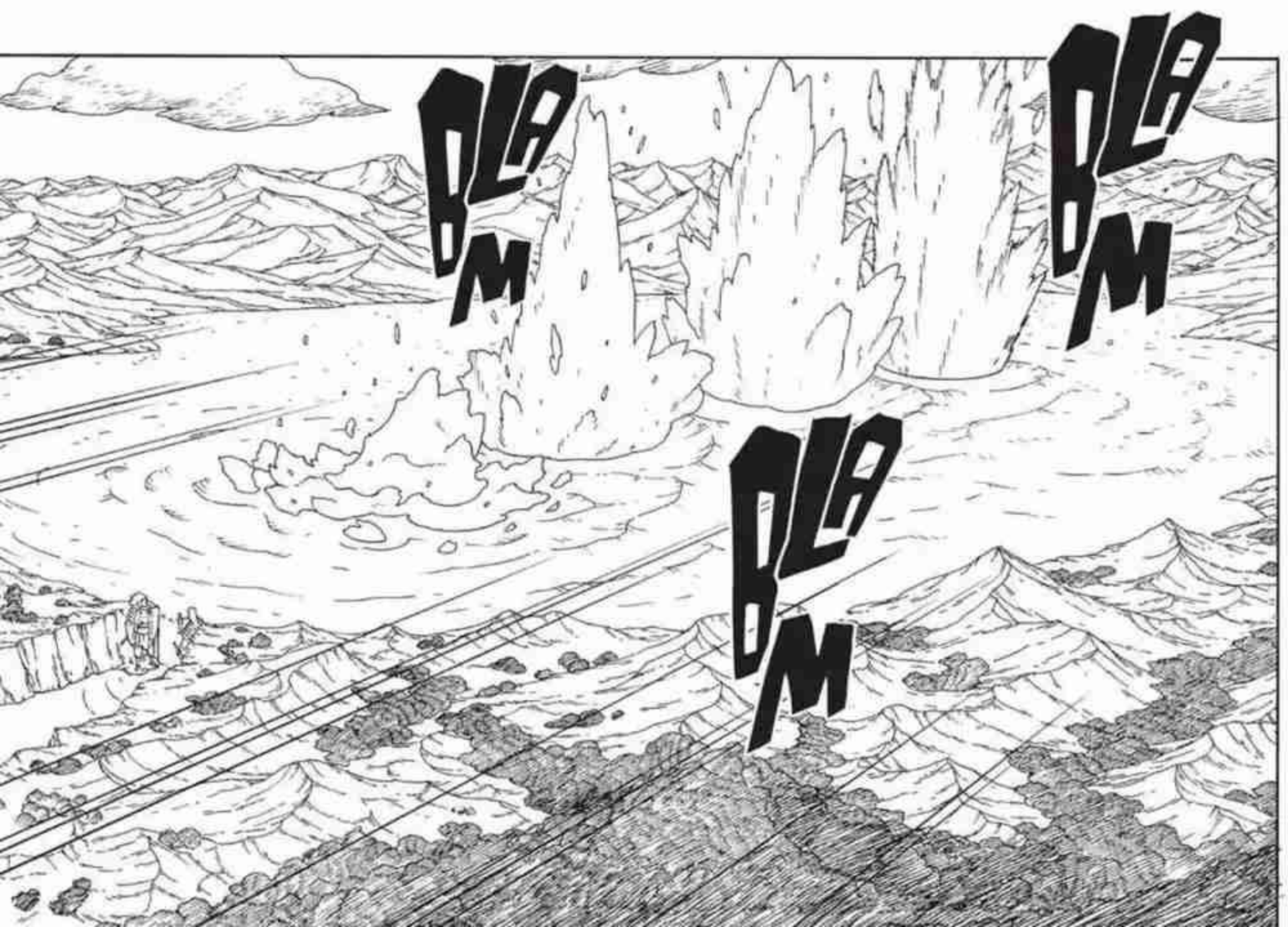
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

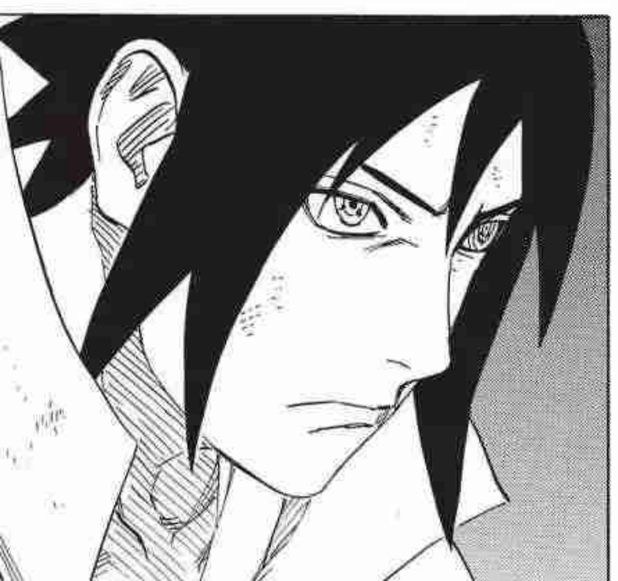
VSH VSH

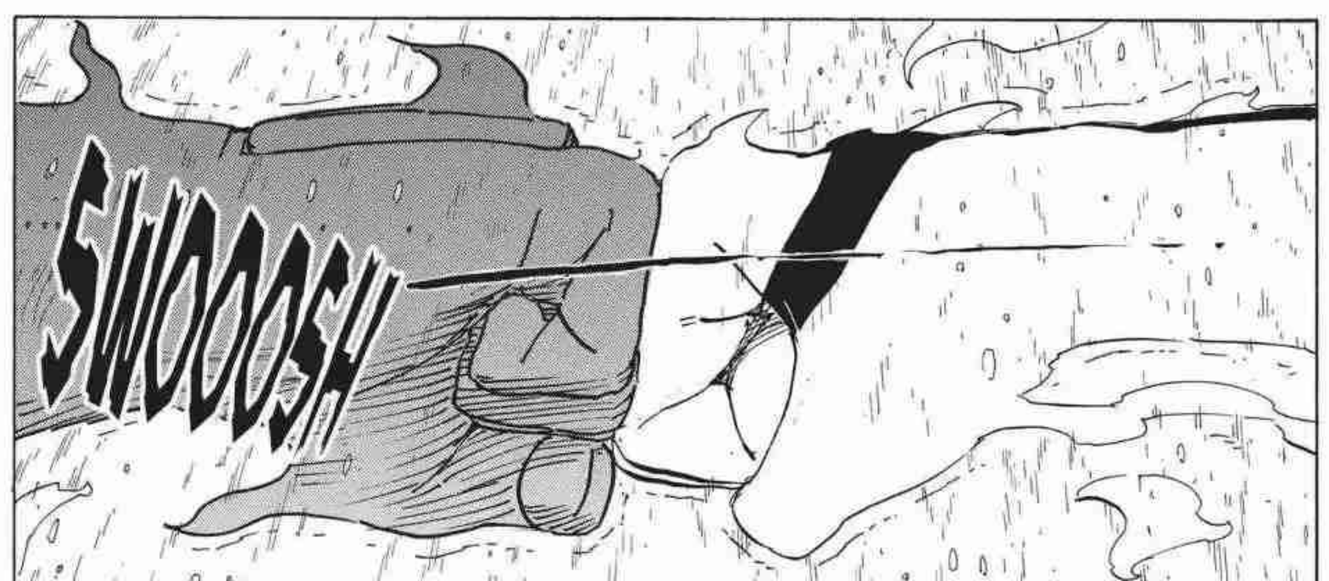
ZWO
OSH
!
V-O
OO
SH
FLKR
FLKR
TAK

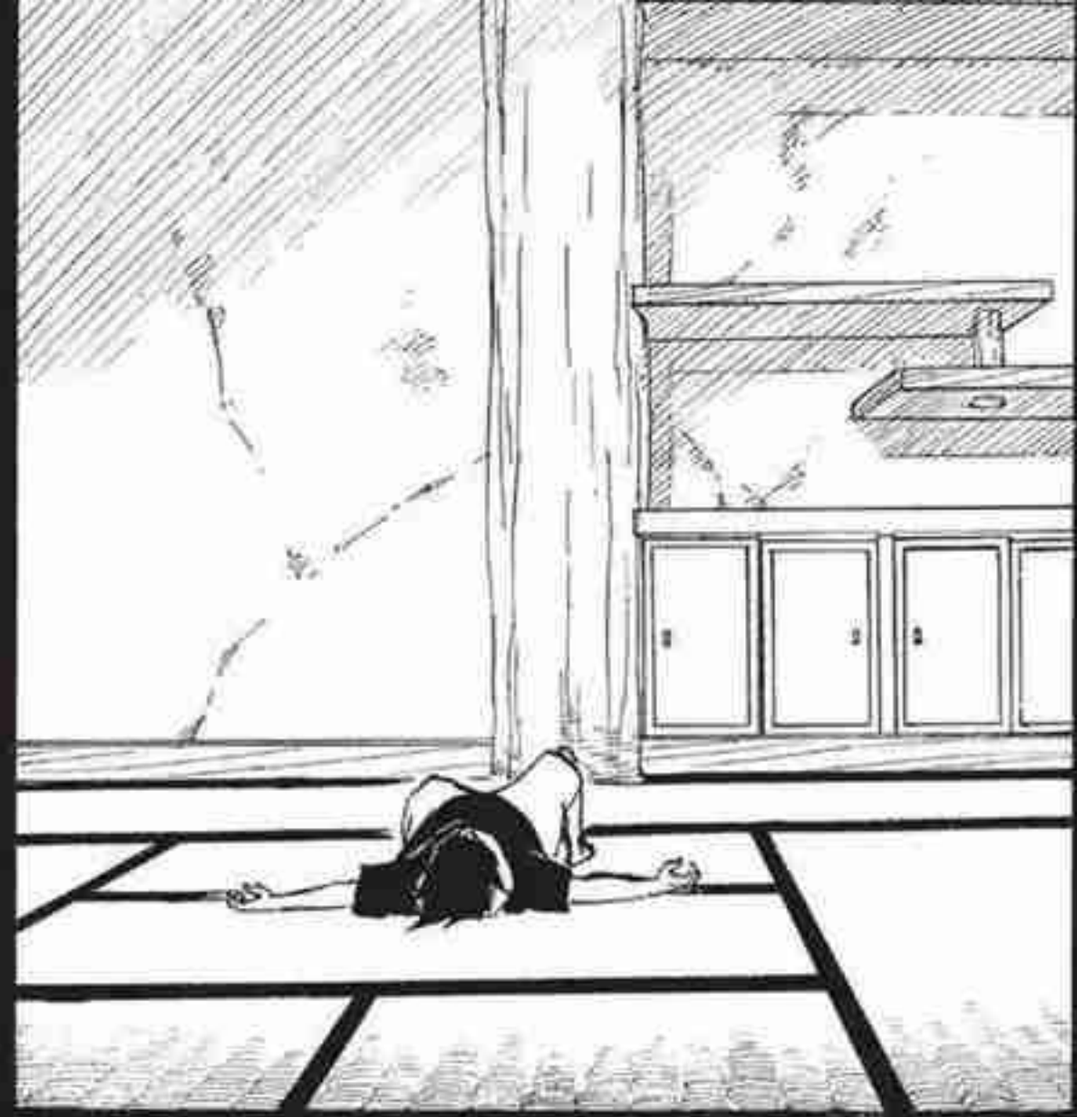
KA
BLA
M

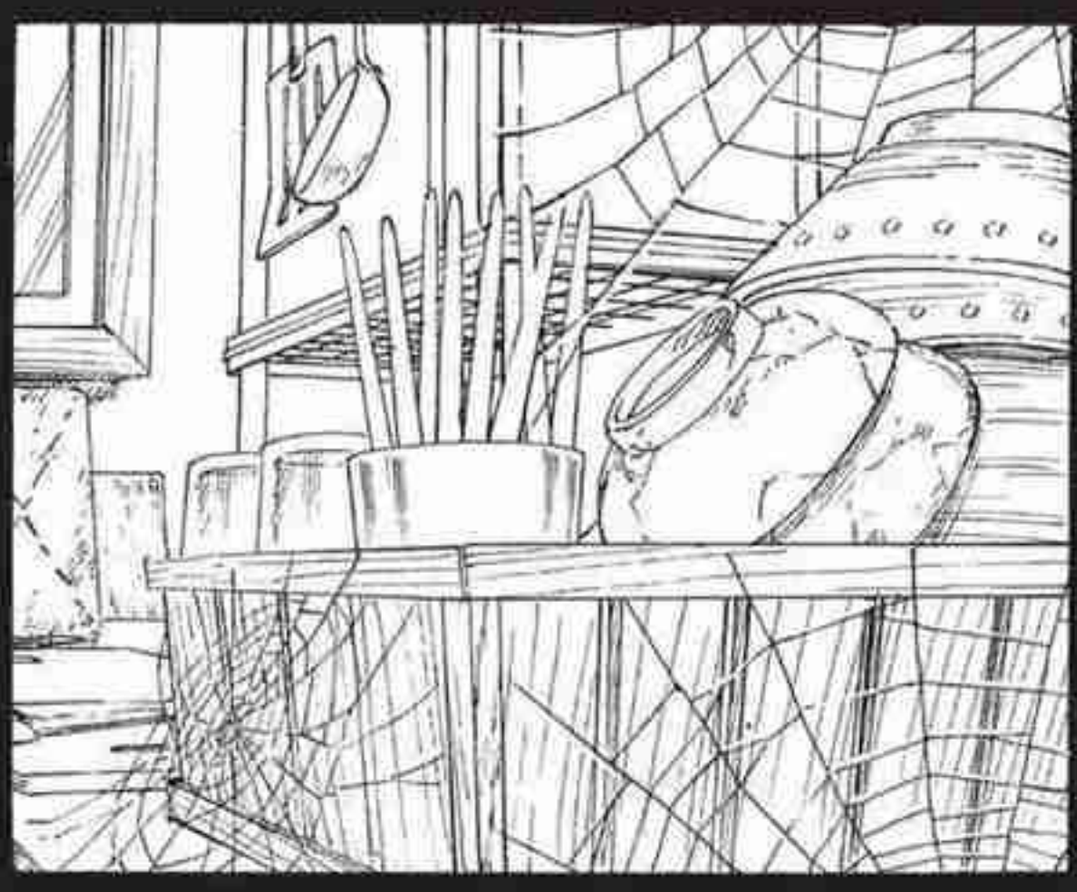
BLA
M

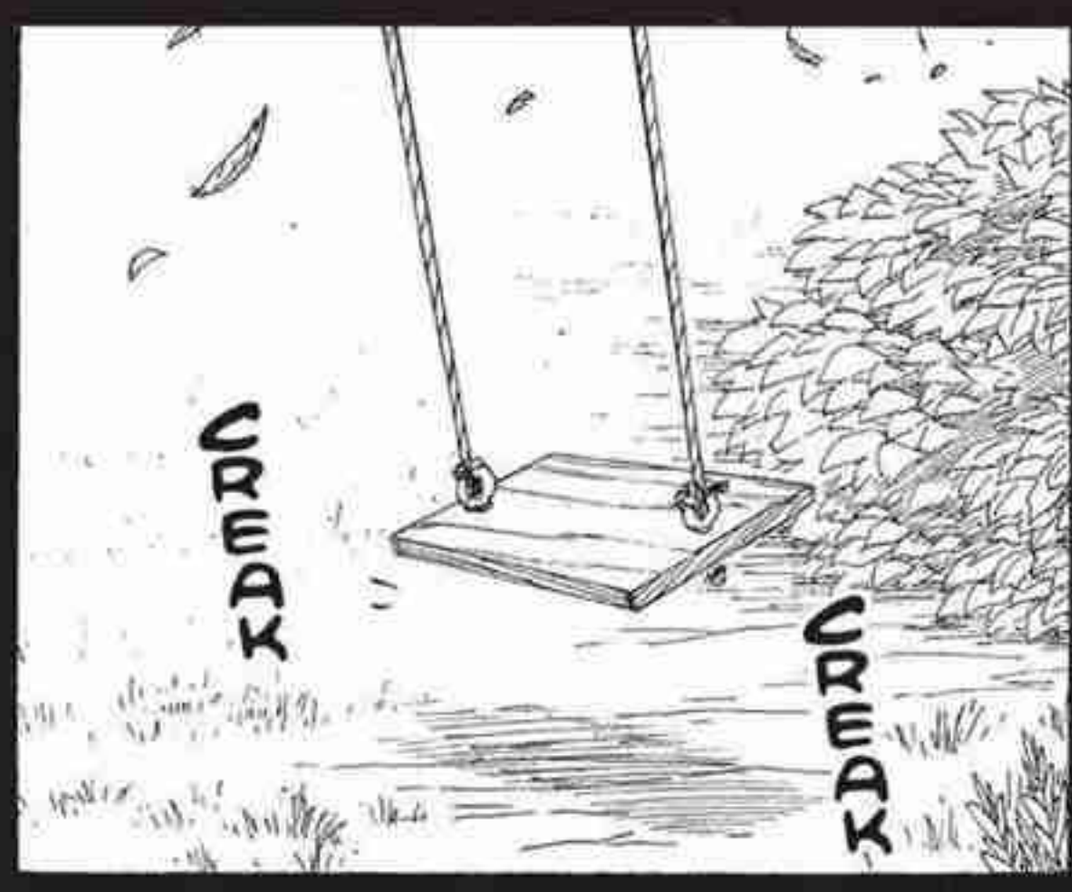

BLA
M
BLA
M
BLA
M

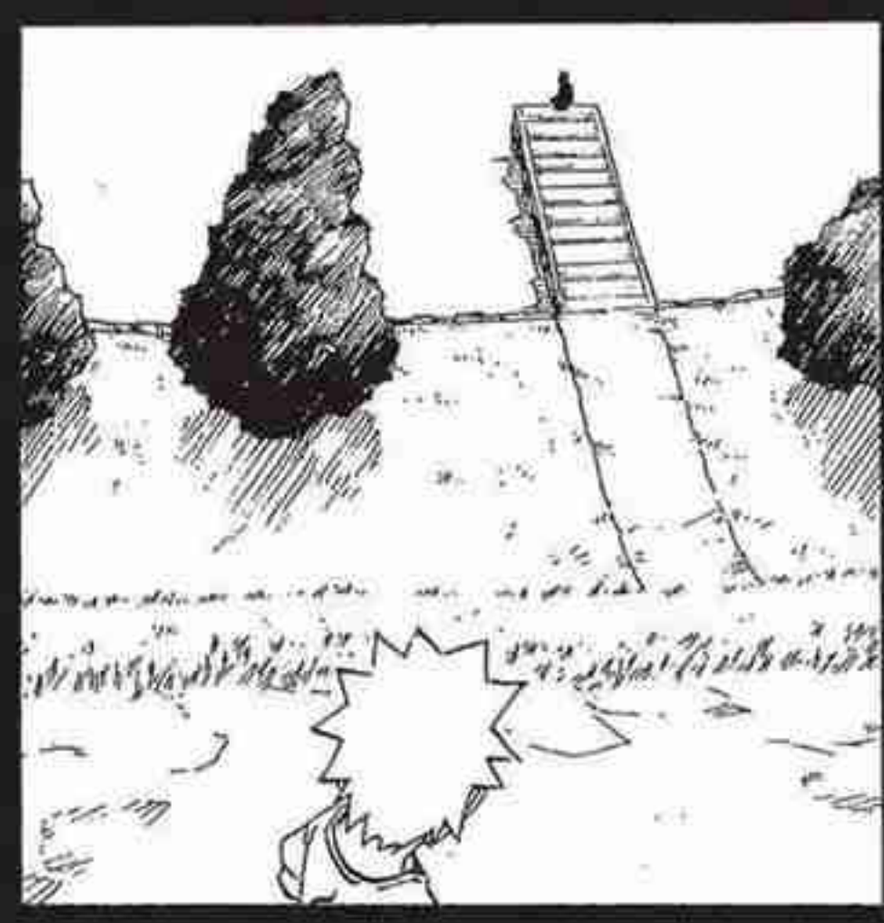



SWOOSH





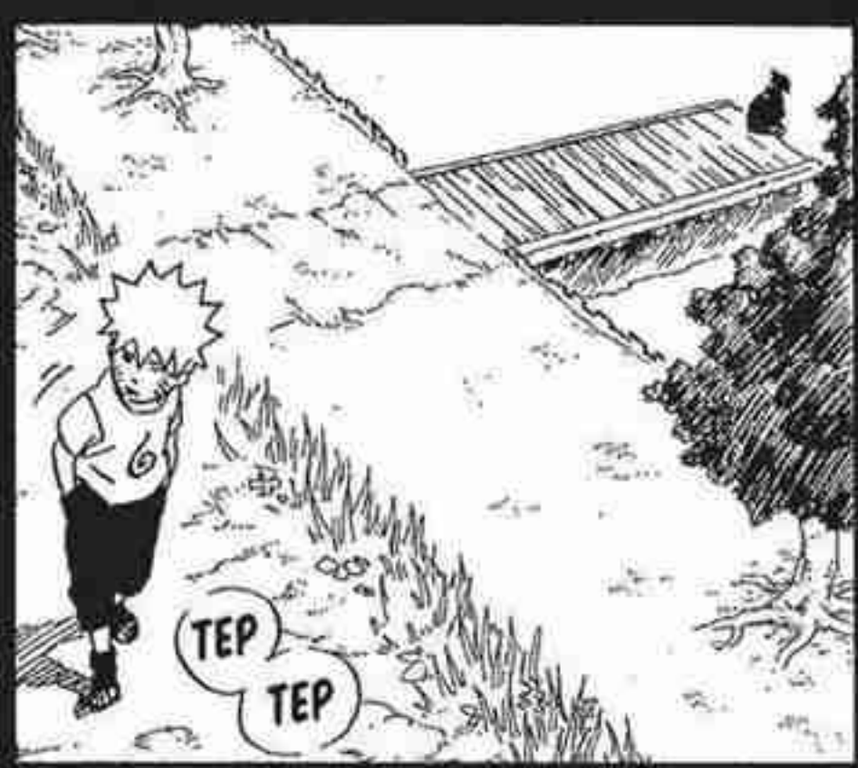

CREAK
CREAK



...

!

!

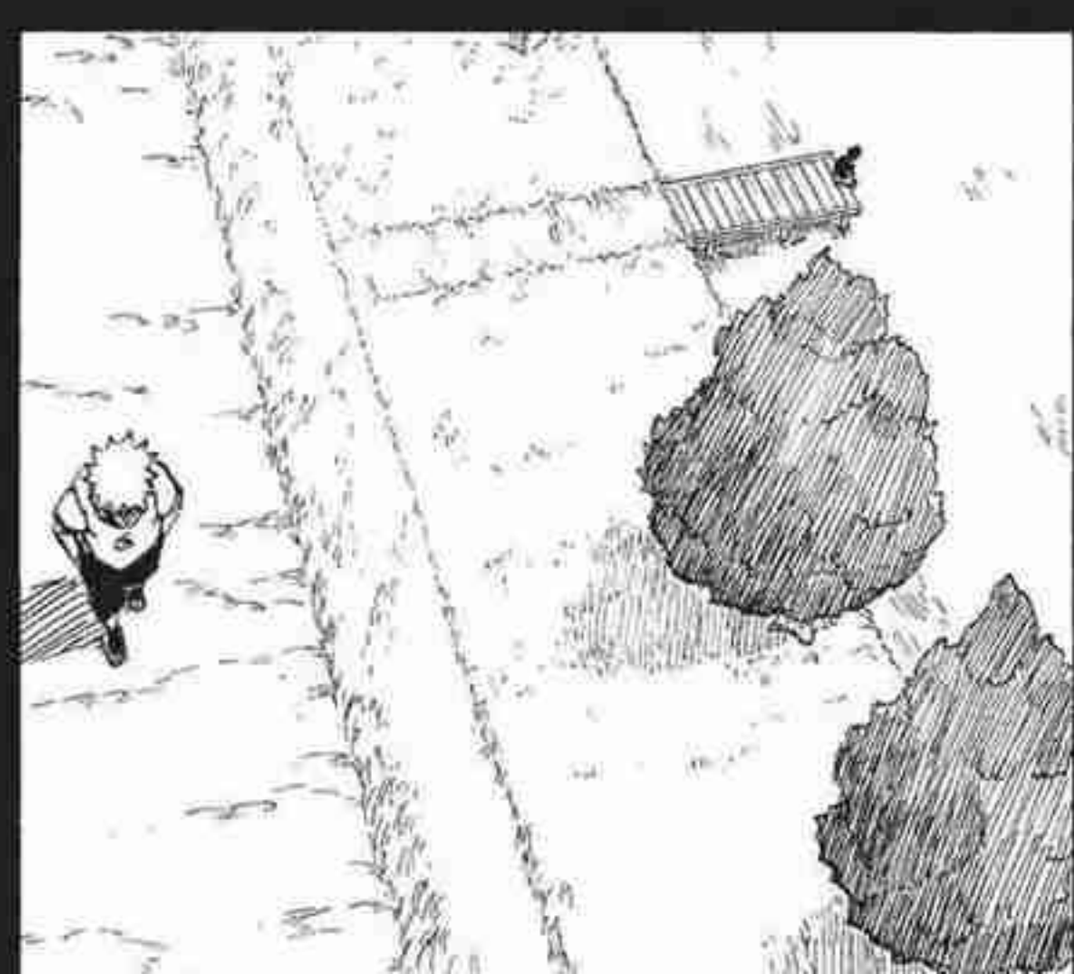

TEP
TEP

CHUK

SWIP

...

PEEK



THK
HOW COULD YOU EVER KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO LOSE ANYTHING?!!
THIS PAIN IS BORN FROM MY FAMILY BONDS!!
KLUD
WHAT CAN YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?!!!
YOU WERE ALONE TO BEGIN WITH!!

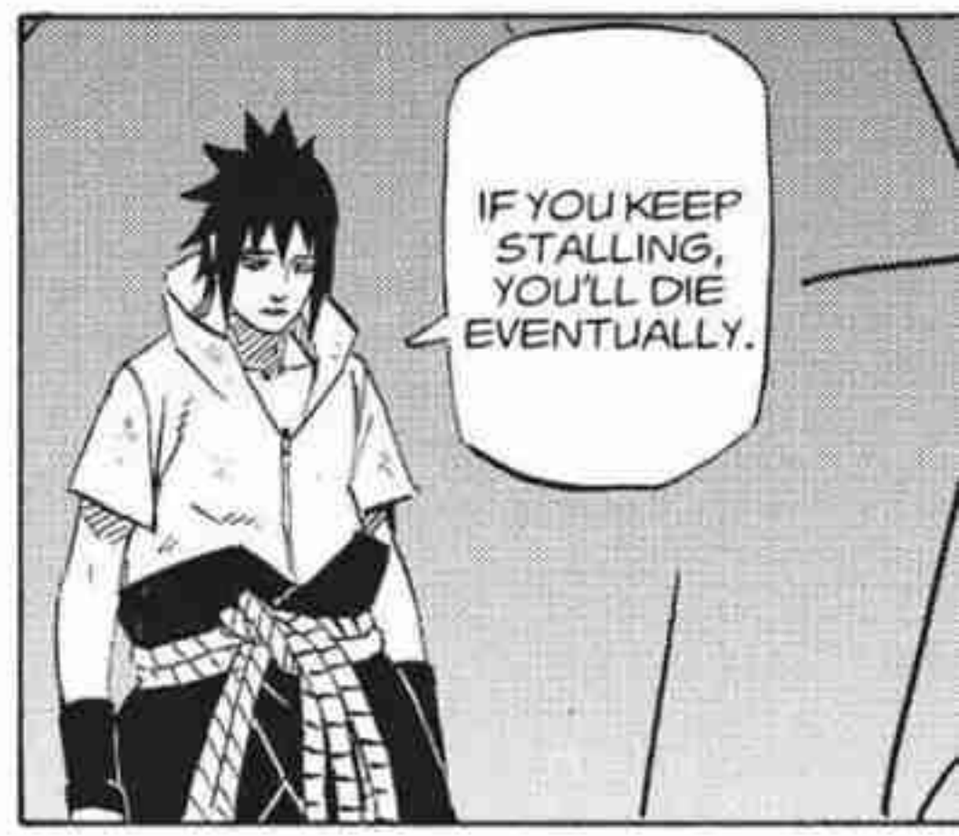
BEGINNING WITH CUTTING YOU DOWN.
I WILL SUNDER ALL PAST MISTAKES AND DOUBTS HERE, AND BRING ABOUT REFORM...

I ALONE CAN BEAR THE WEIGHT OF ALL THE HATRED NOW.
I AM ALONE.

SPLAAAASH

FLAP FLAP SWOOOSH

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO PLAY DEFENSE?



...

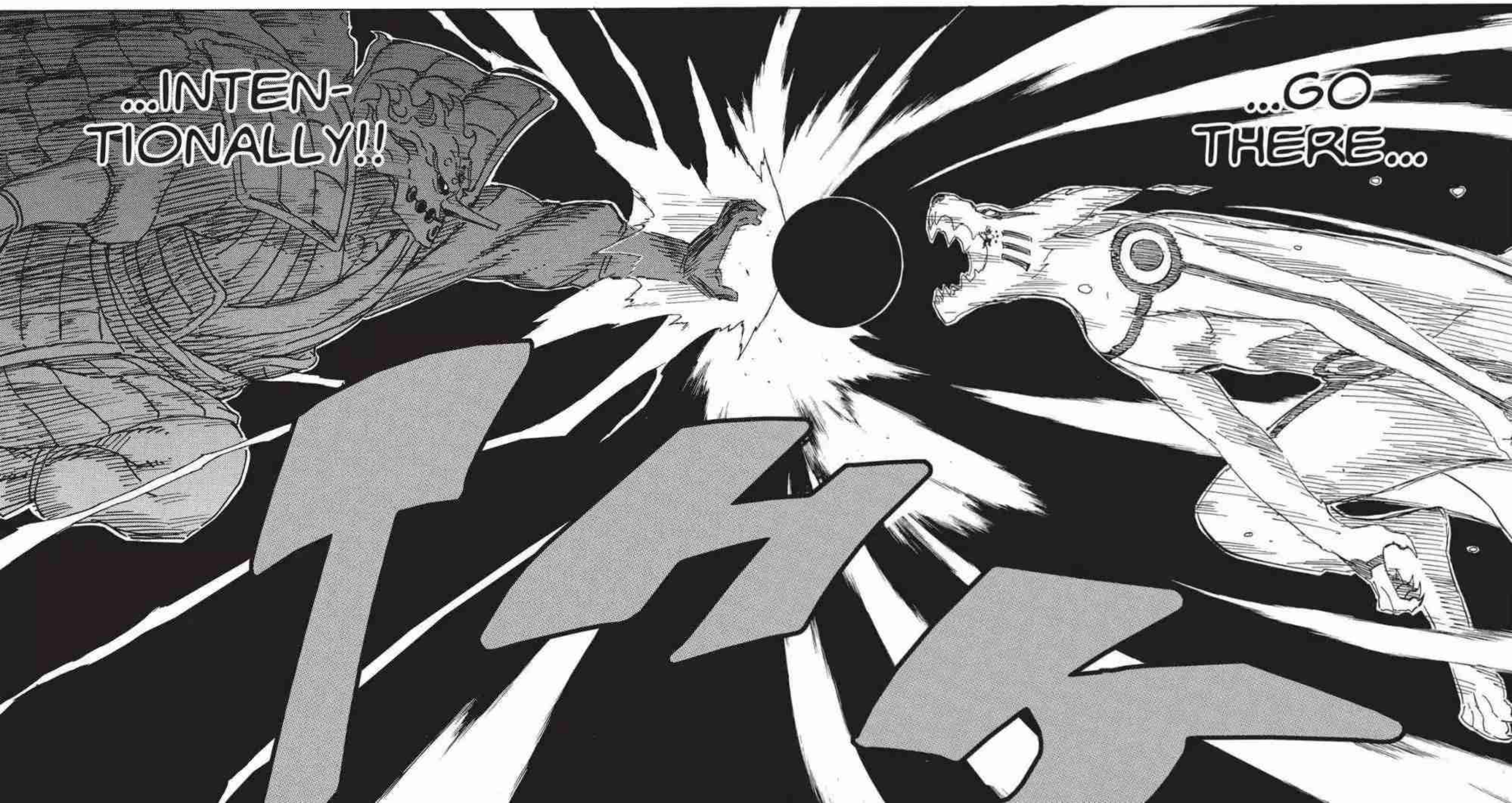
I AIN'T LETTING YOU!!
...MY CLOSEST FRIEND.

SPROING
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T LET YOU...
WE BOTH KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE!

BZZZZ

ARGH

WHOOSH
BZZZZ


...INTEN-
TIONALLY!!
...GO
THERE...

KAV
OO
SH

THD
SPLICH
SPLICH
THD
THD

I KNOW...
WE'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE TWO BOYS WHO FOUGHT HERE LONG AGO.
QUIT YAPPING.

AND YOU, MINE...
RIGHT, NARUTO?

...YOUR HEART.

END OF SERIES COMMEMORATION ILLUSTRATION (5)

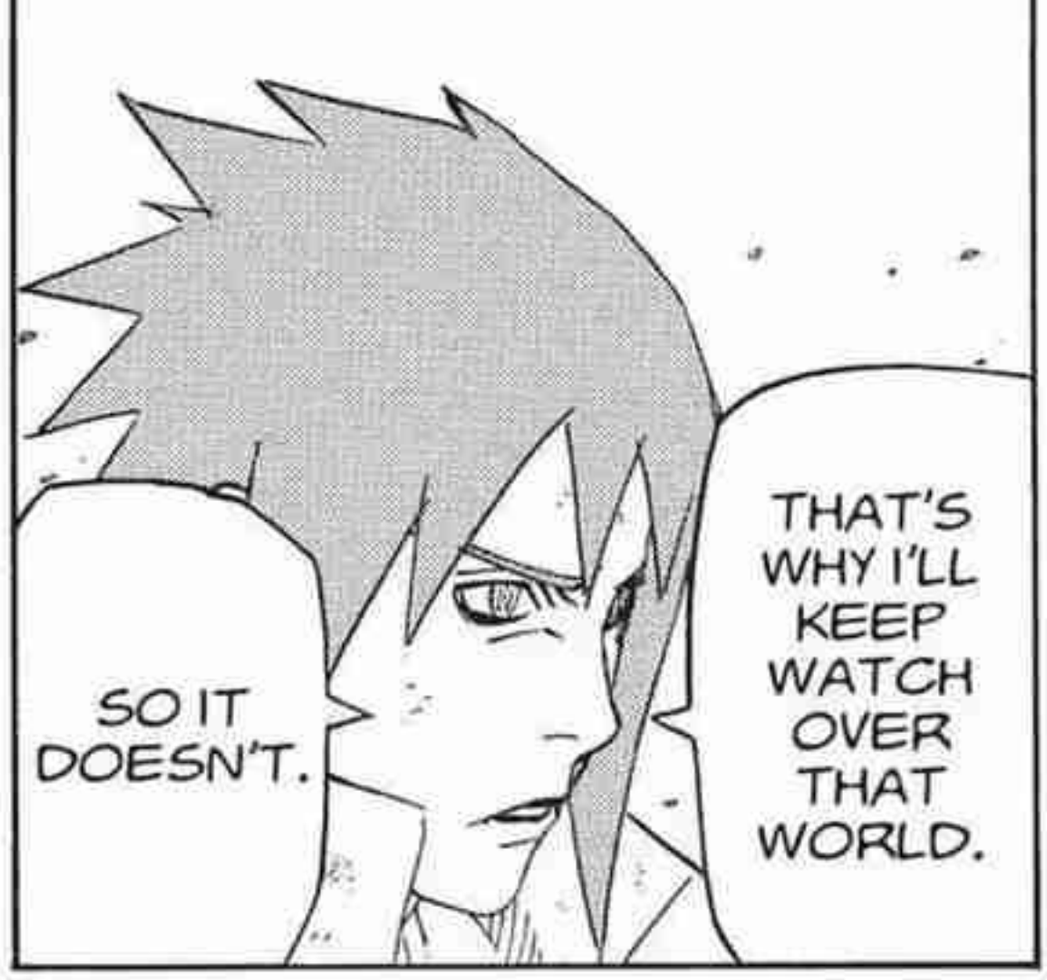
NARUTO

SERIES END CELEBRATION!

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK ON THE SERIES THESE PAST 15 YEARS! I HOPE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY WITH YOUR FAMILY AS HARD AS YOU'VE WORKED!

TAKAHIRO HIRAISHI

...YOU STILL WANT TO FIGHT ME?
YET...
...THEY CAN READ EACH OTHER'S THOUGHTS, THROUGH NO MORE THAN A TRADE OF BLOWS.
WHEN TWO SHINOBI OF HIGH ENOUGH LEVEL FACE OFF...
...
I NEED TO CUT YOU OUT OF MY LIFE.
...
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE IT'S YOU.
...


SO IT DOESN'T.
THAT'S WHY I'LL KEEP WATCH OVER THAT WORLD.

THE FIVE VILLAGES ARE ACTUALLY UNITED RIGHT NOW!
YOU'RE OUT OF TOUCH.

THERE'S ...
...WON'T END UP JUST LIKE THIS ONE, YOU KNOW.
...NO GUARANTEE THAT THE WORLD YOU'LL REBUILD AFTER SEVERING THE PAST...

THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO DEFEAT THEM AND SURVIVE EXCEPT BY DISCARDING THEIR GRUDGES AND JOINING FORCES.
THE AKATSUKI, MADARA, THEN KAGUYA.
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE THEY HAD ENEMIES IN COMMON.
YEAH...

BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER YOU'RE DEAD?!
SO YOU INTEND ON BECOMING THEIR NEXT ENEMY?!

BUT THOSE MUTUAL FOES ARE GONE NOW.
THEY'LL EVENTUALLY START BICKERING AMONGST THEMSELVES AGAIN.

I HAVE NUMEROUS OPTIONS.

REINCAR-NATION, IMMORTALITY ...

I'LL ALSO BE ABLE TO CONTROL THINGS FROM THE SHADOWS, INSTEAD OF THROUGH BATTLE...

I STARTED WITH SHARINGAN, BUT NOW I HAVE THE RINNEGAN'S POWERS TOO.

... CONNECTED AND FORMED A SINGLE LINE.

THE DOTS HAVE FINALLY ...

?!

AS SOMEONE HATED BY ALL...?

YOU'RE PLANN-ING...

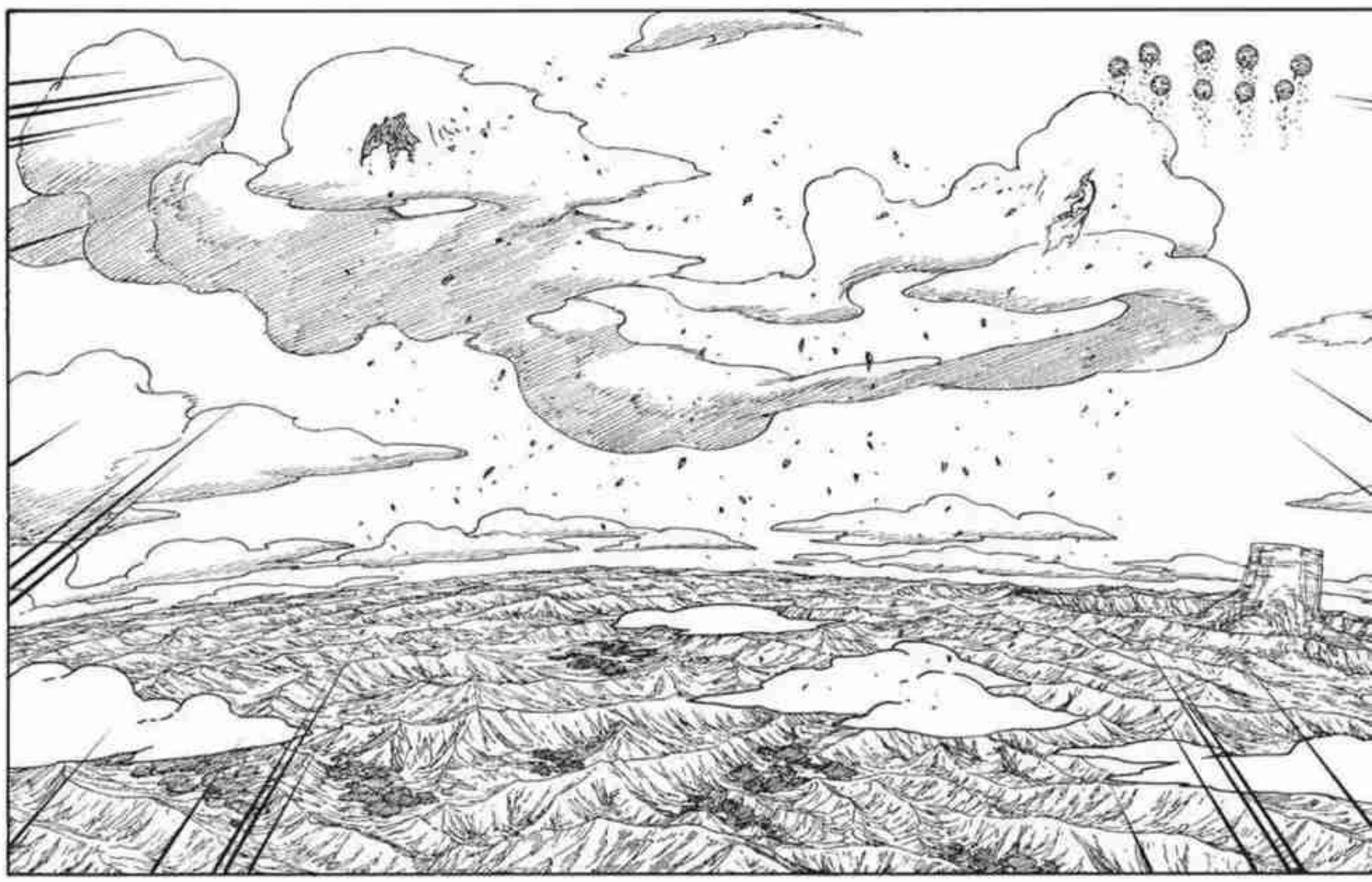
...TO RETURN TO ***THAT HELL*** FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE... OR RATHER, FOR ALL ETERNITY?

...

TO ME, THAT'S WHAT A HOKAGE OUGHT TO BE.

...

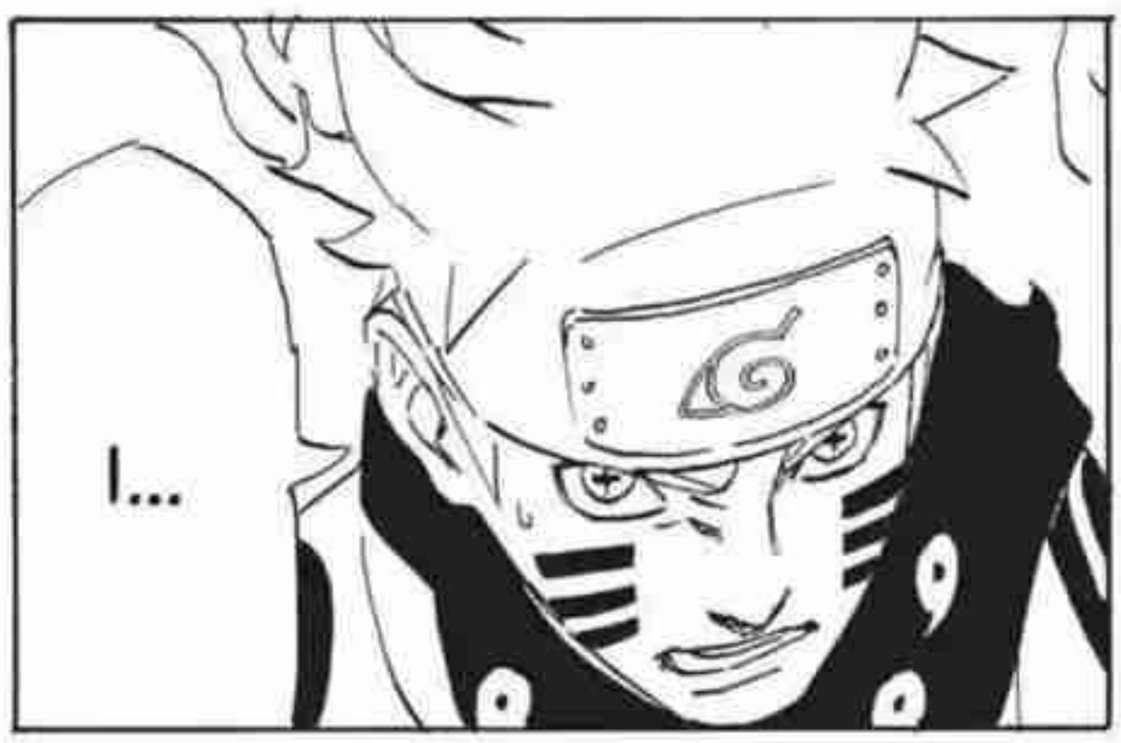
FLASH



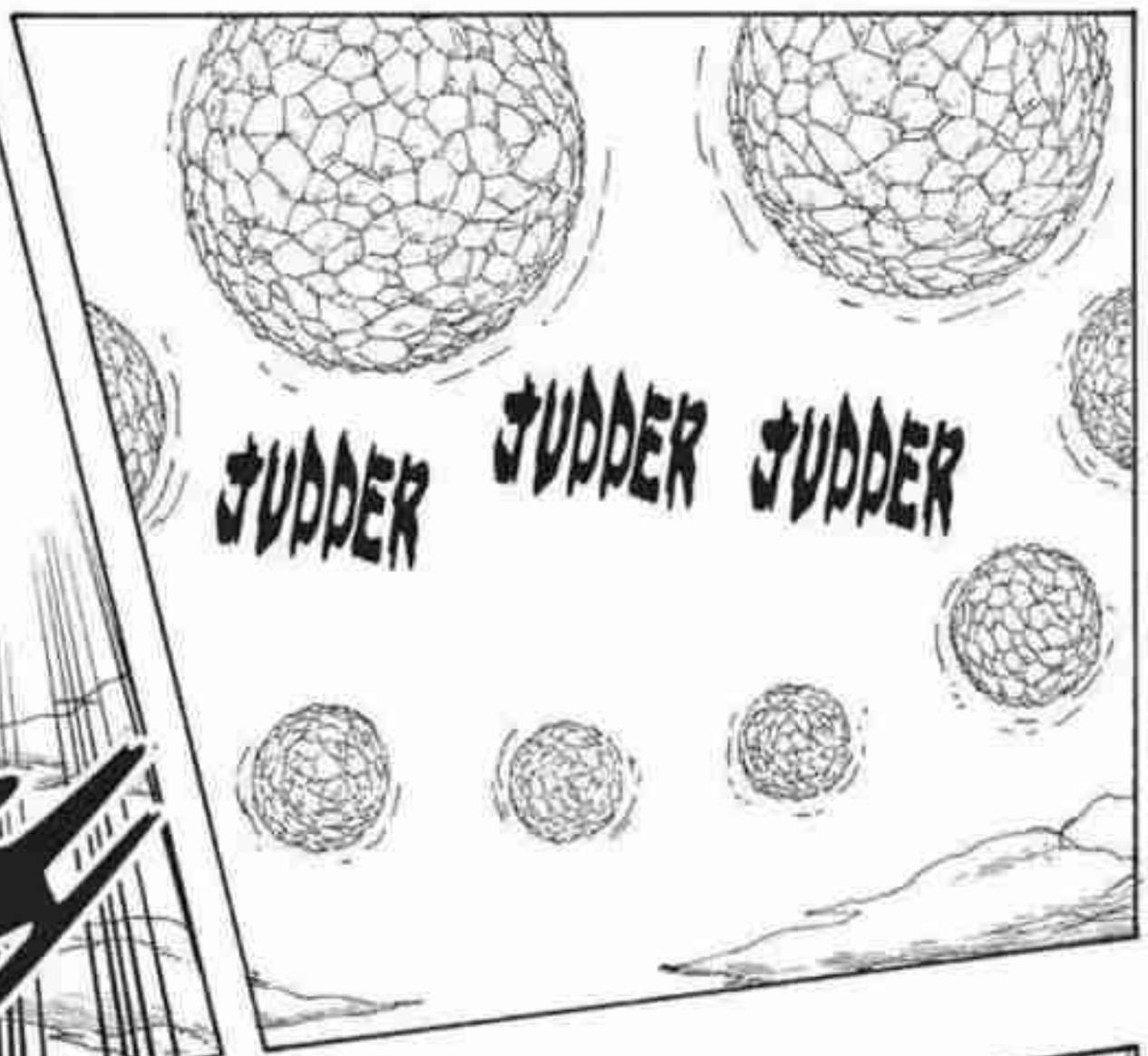
I'M NOT TRYING TO KILL YOU!
I TOLD YOU!

THAT'S NOT EVEN CLOSE TO GOOD ENOUGH TO KILL ME.

FWP
ENOUGH.


I...

VOOO

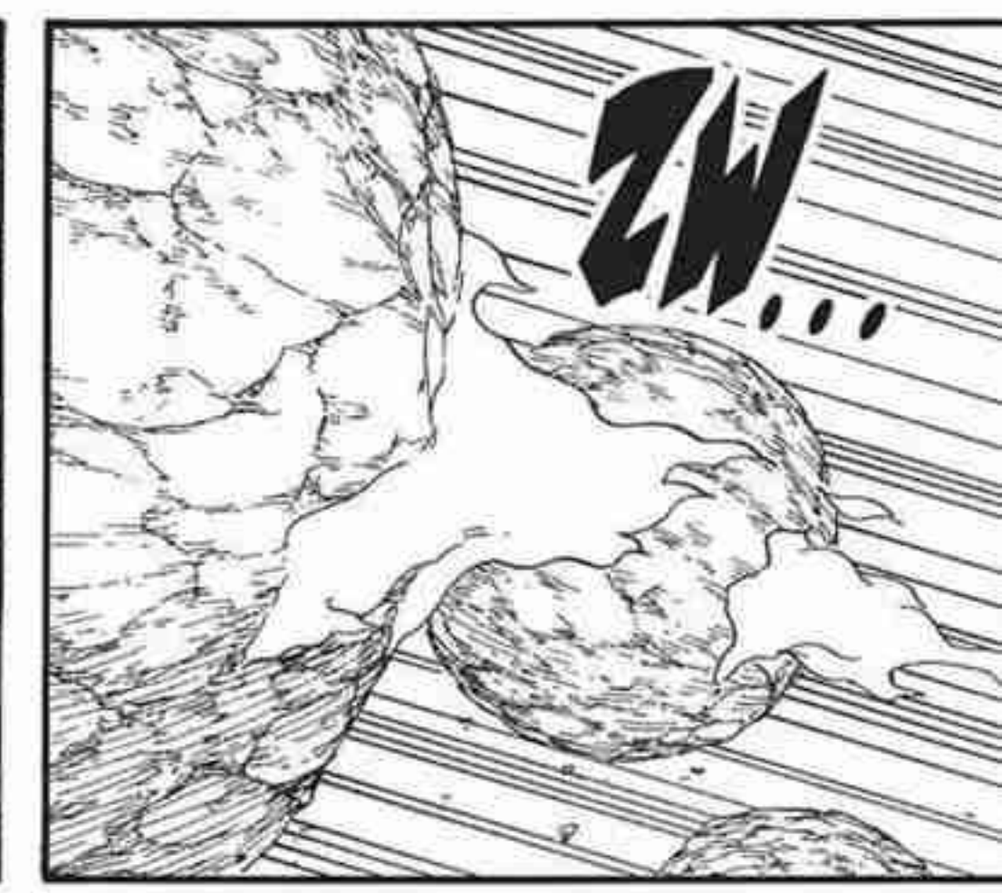

JUDDER
JUDDER
JUDDER

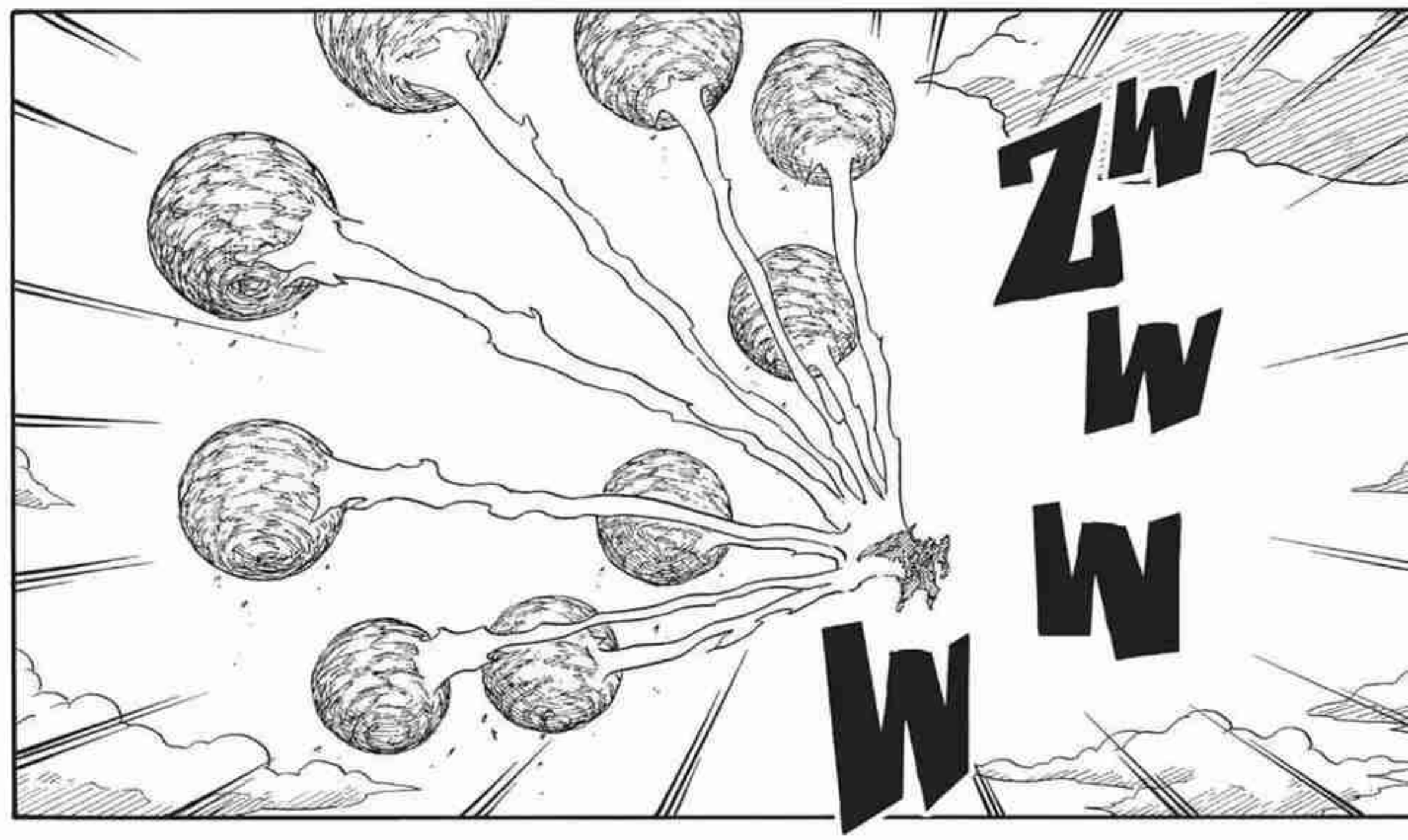
INK

!!

AND THIS WILL BE MY FIRST STEP INTO THE SHADOWS.

I'M THE STRONGEST IN THIS WORLD NOW.





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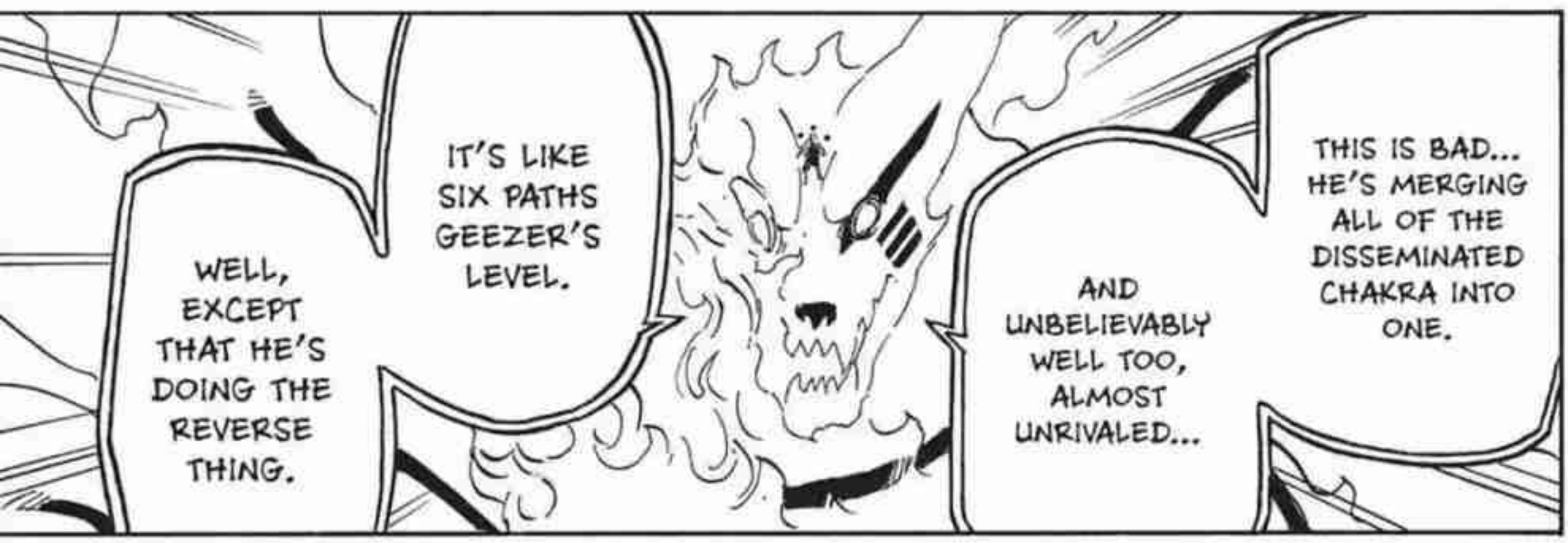

WELL, EXCEPT THAT HE'S DOING THE REVERSE THING.
IT'S LIKE SIX PATHS GEEZER'S LEVEL.
AND UNBELIEVABLY WELL TOO, ALMOST UNRIVALED...
THIS IS BAD... HE'S MERGING ALL OF THE DISSEMINATED CHAKRA INTO ONE.

...!

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DROP, NARUTO!
SOMETHING INCREDIBLE IS GOING TO EMERGE!

...HE'S USING SUSANO'O AS THE RECEIVING VESSEL.
SINCE THERE'S NO GEDO STATUE HERE...

THAT JUTSU AGAIN...?

ZWSH

NARUTO, THAT JUTSU OF YOURS IS A SYMBOL OF YOUR WEAKNESS.
BOOF

IT'S A JUTSU THAT COVERS UP YOUR LONELINESS.
SHKEEN

BZZZZZZZ

VS

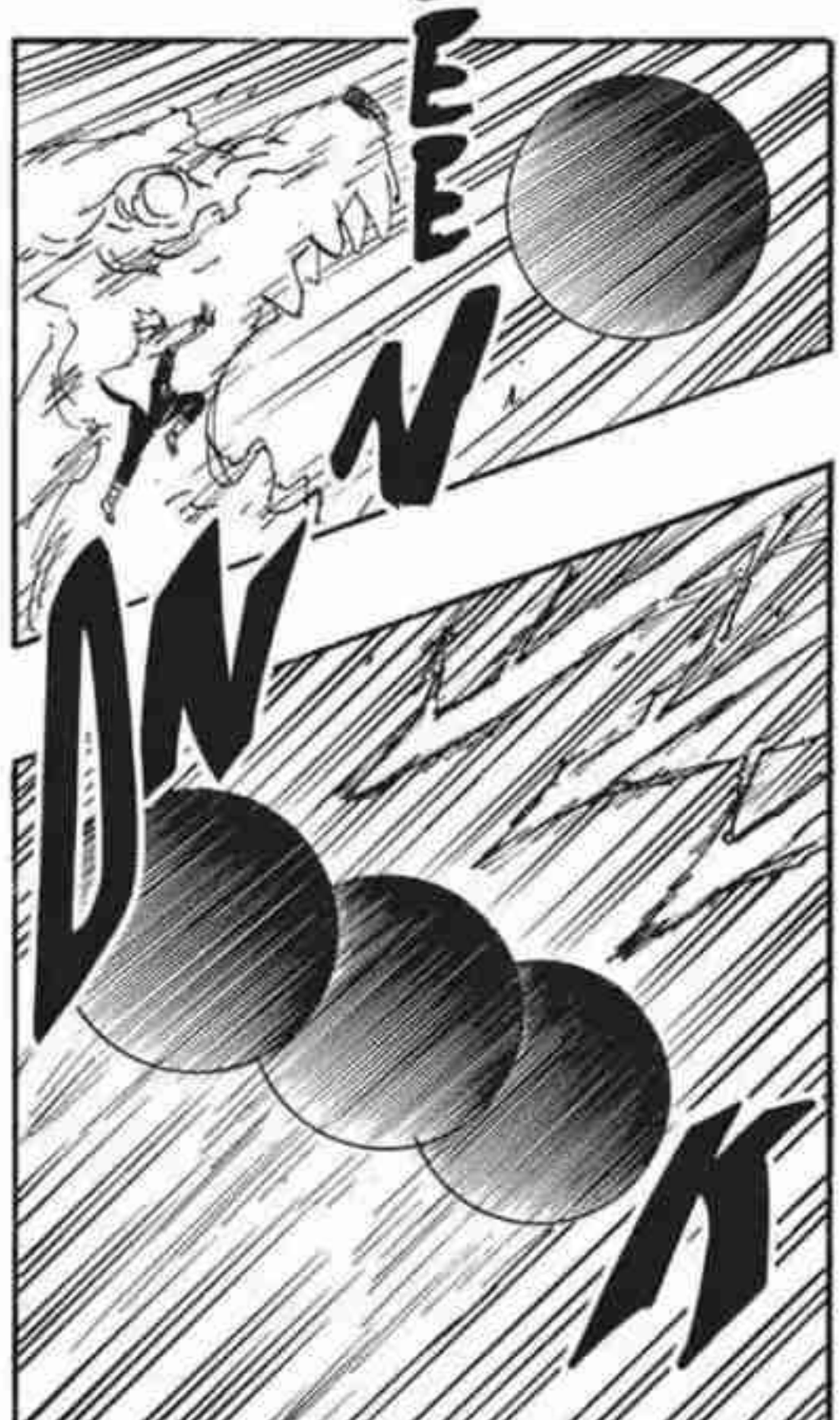
!!
BA
ARGH !!
FFT
M
FW
O
SH
WHAM

THUD
THUD
WOOSH
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD

ZW
BZ
W

KW

EEEE


N
DW
K

THK
BZ
THK
BZZ
THK
BZZ
THK

KAYOOSH...

FLR FLR FLR

RRRUMBLE

YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST ME NOW.

YOU HOLD ONLY A LITTLE PIECE OF EACH BIJU'S CHAKRA...

MUFF MUFF

GF
GF
G
ZWP
BZZ
FSH
BZZ
G

FSH...

ZWW...
ZWW...
BZZZ
KRIIIK

NOT YET, KURAMA?!!

G
ZWP

BOOF

IT'S EVERYTHING THAT'S AVAILABLE! HERE IT COMES!!

I MIGHT'VE AMASSED A LITTLE TOO MUCH, IN FACT.

I CAN FEEL IT!

?!

HOW'D HE GAIN SO MUCH NATURE ENERGY SUDDENLY?!

BLLL ZZ

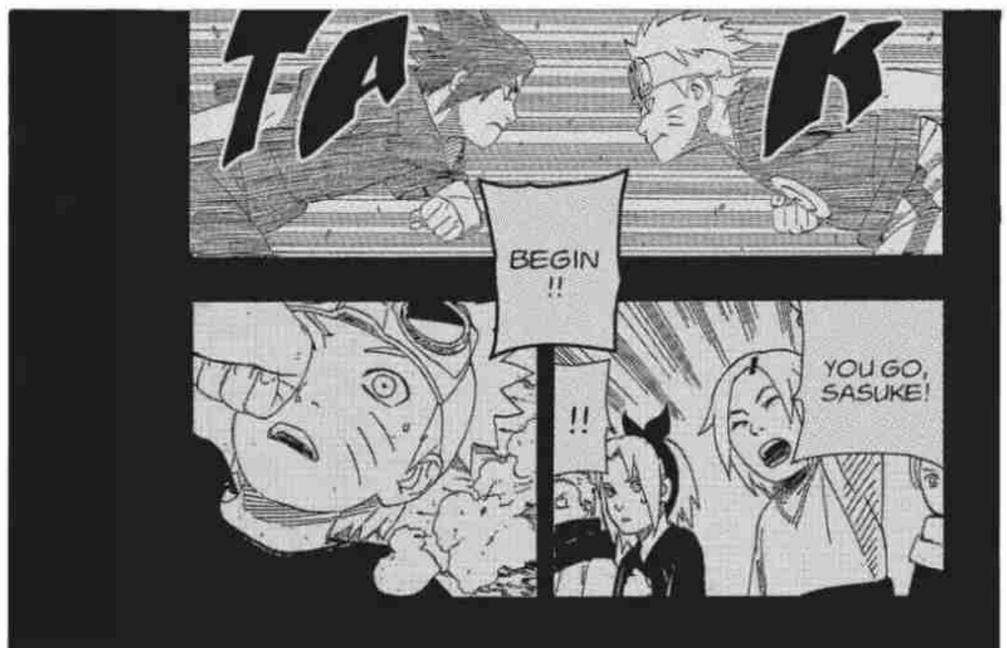
BLAZE

GOT IT!

FINALLY RESOLVED TO KILL ME, EH?

...

*POSTER: KICK SASUKE'S BUTT!!



BZZZ
...

BUT NOT AGAINST *THE CURRENT YOU!!*

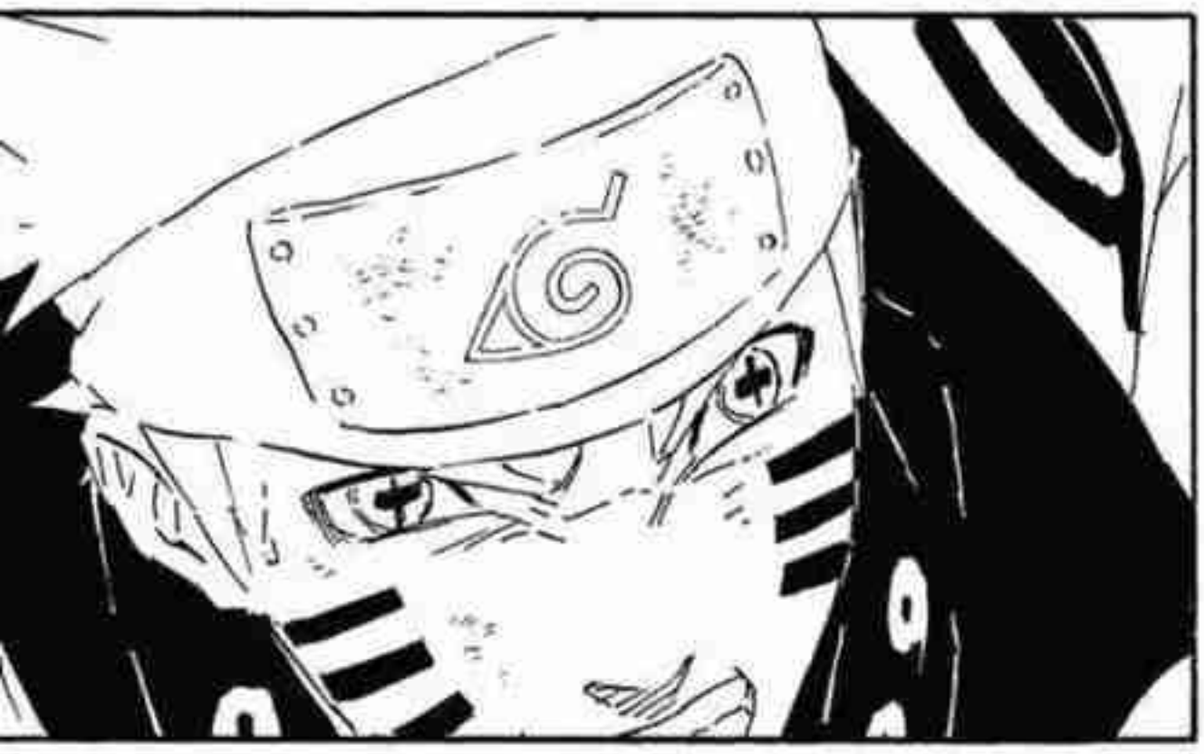
KWEEEN

YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY TOO, DON'T YA, SASUKE?!!!

END OF SERIES COMMEMORATION ILLUSTRATION (G) AKIRA OKUBO

オオクボアキラ

Number 697: Naruto and Sasuke, Part 4



ROOO
RAA
JUST BE GONE ALREADY!!

WHAM
BLAM
VOOOOSH
?!!
BLAST
WHAM
VOOOSH

VWOOOOSH...
BOFF
BOFF
GAK!
THD

DAMN, YOU'RE STILL...?
HUFF
...
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF
HAK

FUH
HUFF
HUFF

SHK
AMATERASU!!
EN

AND YOUR CHAKRA'S ALREADY LONG BEEN DRAINED FROM THE WAR...
FRANKLY, IF MY NATURE ENERGY HADN'T REACHED YOU IN TIME, YOU'D HAVE BEEN BLOWN AWAY JUST NOW...

BLUB
BLUB

BLAZE
!!

I CAN'T ACTUALLY TAKE HIM DOWN WITH THIS...
ONLY A DIVERSION, HUH...
I NEED THE BIJU'S...
FSH

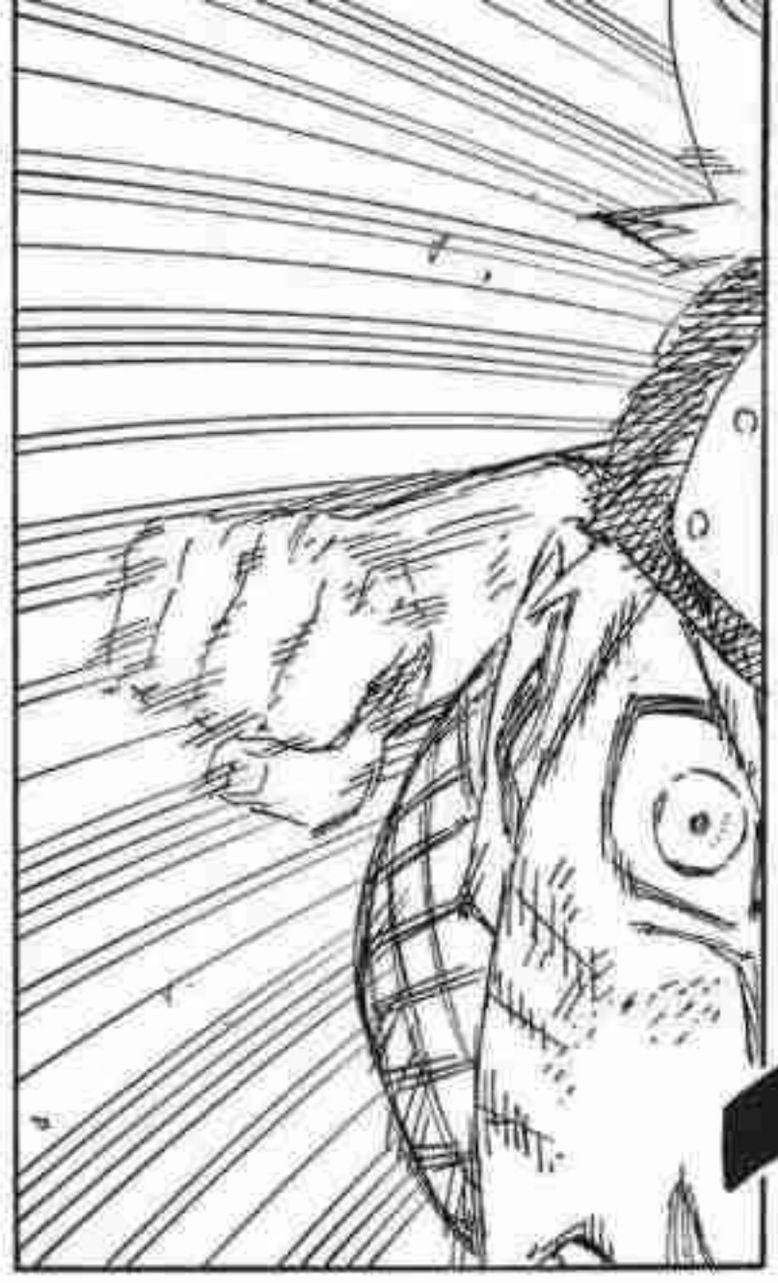
ZZZZZ
ZNE

FWAP
HUFF
HUFF

!

UGH ...!
AT THIS RATE, I CAN'T USE MY LEFT EYE'S ABILITIES EITHER...
I'VE...USED TOO MUCH CHAKRA AND CAN NO LONGER MAINTAIN CONTROL...

!!
THUD

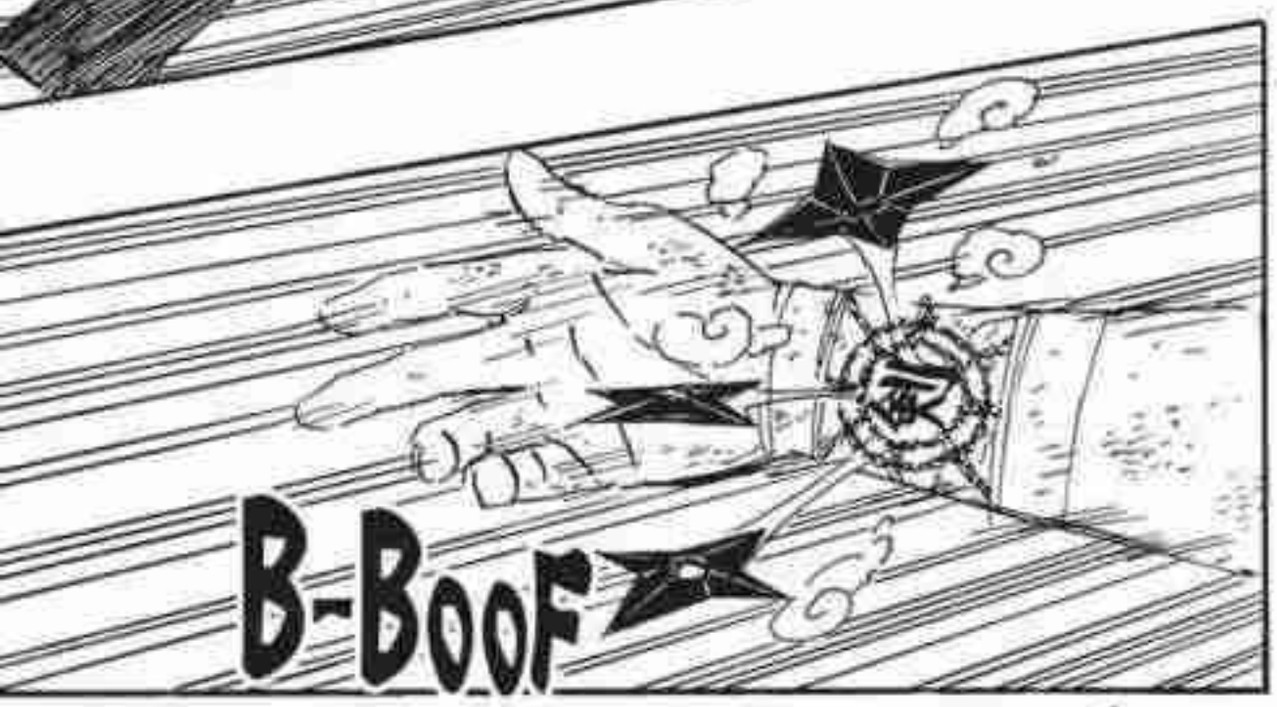


THRUSH
THK
GGH!!

!!

WHAK
THOK

ZWP


B-BOOF

THD
THD
ARGH!
ACK!!

EWC

VIP...

ZSH

BZZZ

UGH!
THK
THK
THK

BOOF BOOF BZZZZ

MUFF
MUFF

MUFF
MUFF
SSHH

MUFF
FLMP
MAK
BZZZ

MUFF
MUFF
KWEEEN

BZ...

!
MFF
MUFF
TA
KI

PSHH...

ZSH
TAK
ARGH !!
THUD
!

GAH!!
WHACK

TMP
!!

BAM

RAAAA!!

ZZZZ

MUFF
GOFF...
MUFF

RAAAA!!
KRAK THOK THK
THD
WHAK

!!
KRAK
WHAP

GRAAA!!

MUFF
MUFF
SNORT

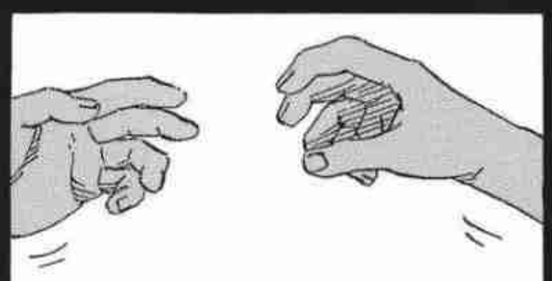
TAT

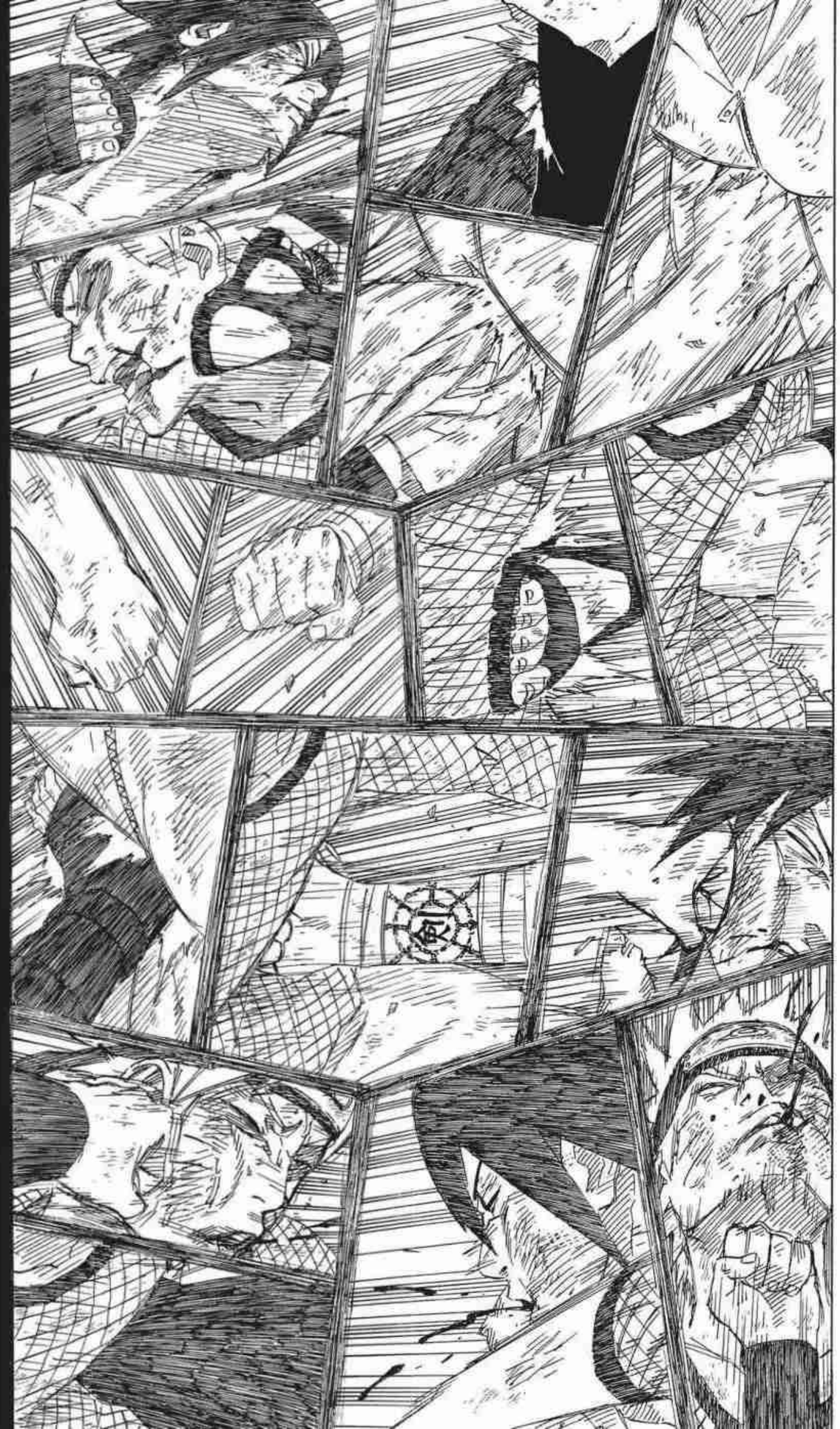
ZSH

YOU'RE A TURD! IDIOT, IDIOT!!
YOU WEREN'T EVEN LOOKING AT ME!
WE HAVEN'T REALLY FOUGHT YET!

I TOLD YOU, THIS HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT IS A SACRED TRADITION!
MAKE THE UNISON SIGN!
KRAK
OWW!!

FSH
FSH





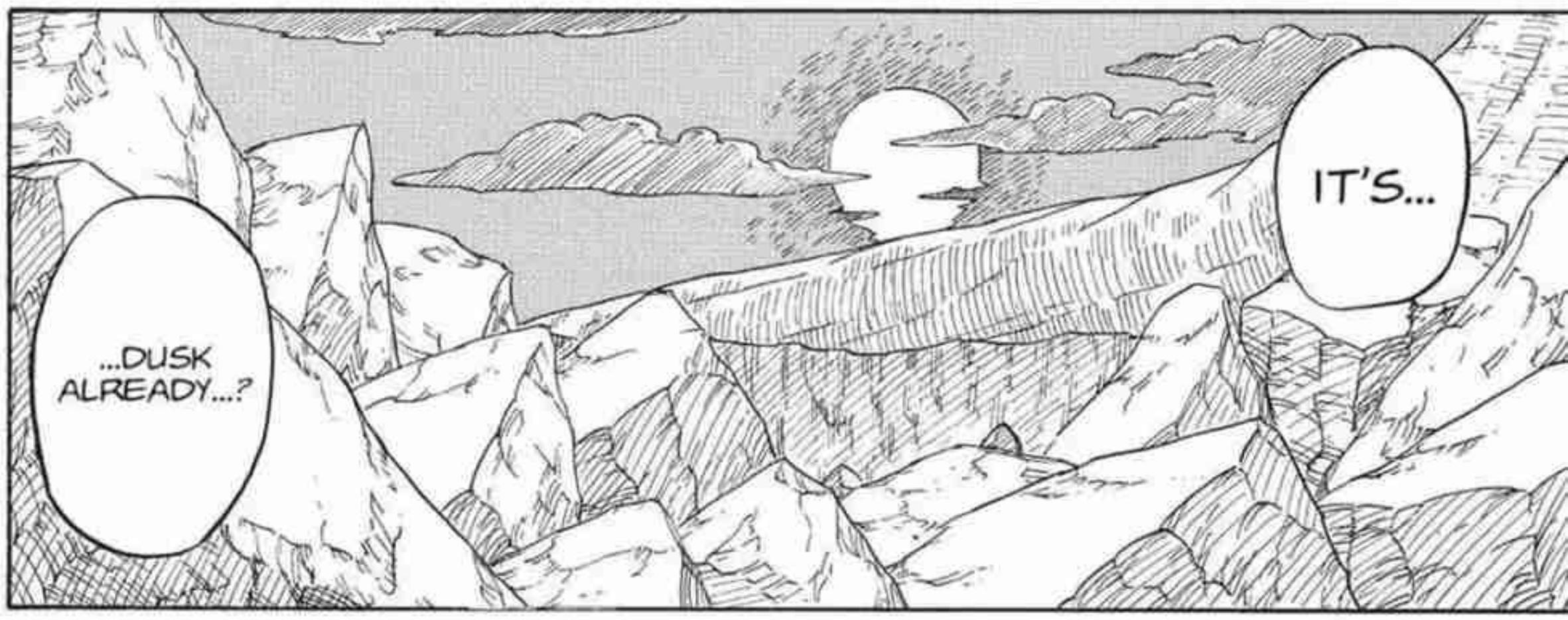
HAK
HUFF
HUFF

GIVE IT UP... ALREADY ...
HE STILL...?
HUFF

FSH
SASUKEEE!!!
NARUTOOO!!!
TAK

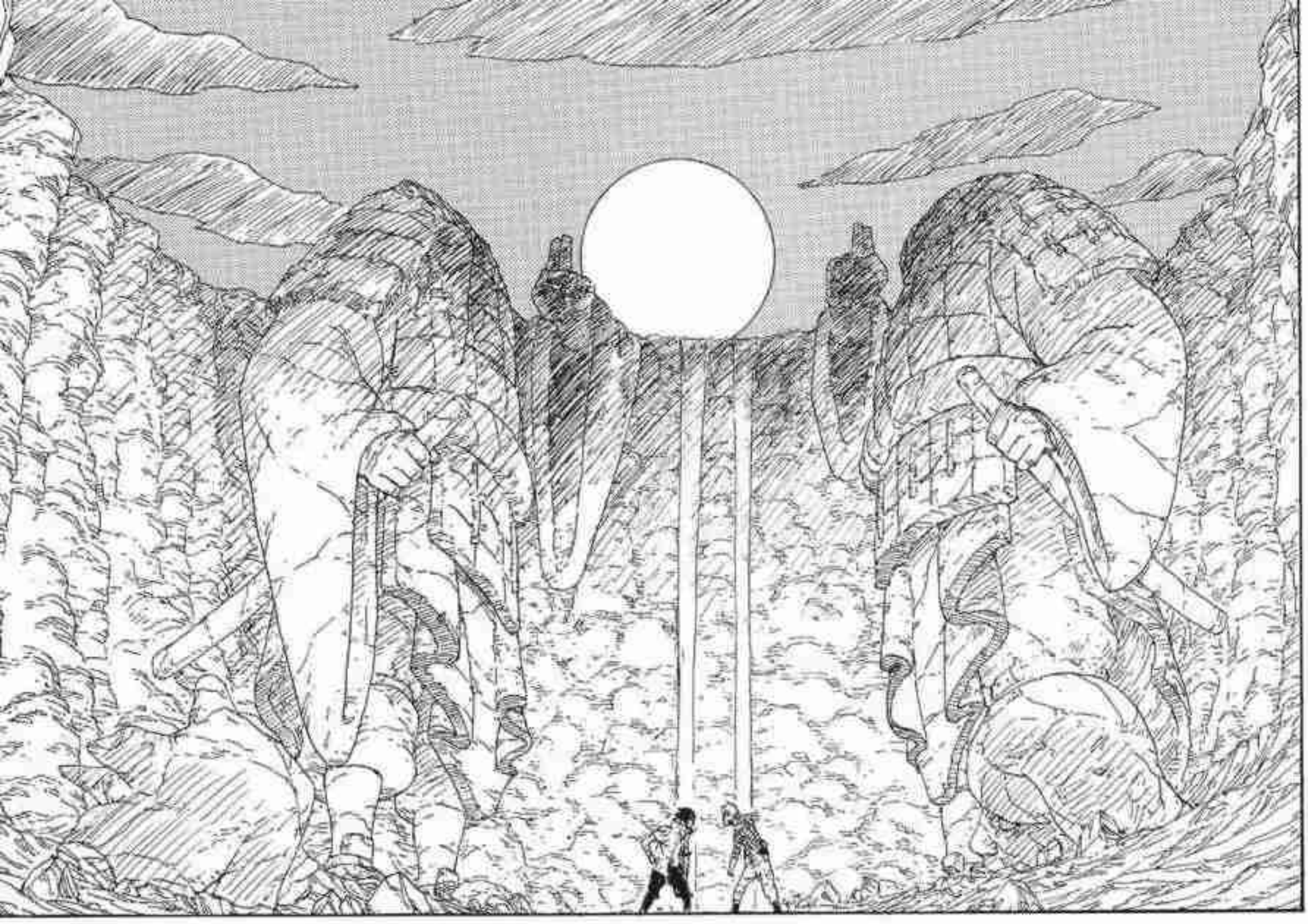
YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE.
...

!!!
GASP


...DUSK ALREADY...?
IT'S...

...IN ORDER TO SETTLE THINGS FOR GOOD.

WHERE ARE SASUKE AND NARUTO ?!
!!
THEY'RE... CURRENTLY FIGHTING THEIR FINAL BATTLE...
...



HUFF
HAK

HUFF
HAK

HUFF
HUFF
HAK
HAK

SPLACH

HUFF
QUIVER...
TNK...

TAP...
HAK
QUIVER...

OKAY! HERE GOES...

!!!

TWITCH

HANG IN THERE!

IT AIN'T MUCH, BUT I'VE GOT SOME MORE CHAKRA FOR YOU!

HE'S SUCKING OUT... KURAMA'S CHAKRA...

UGH...

HUFF

ZWWWW...

HUFF

SPLASH

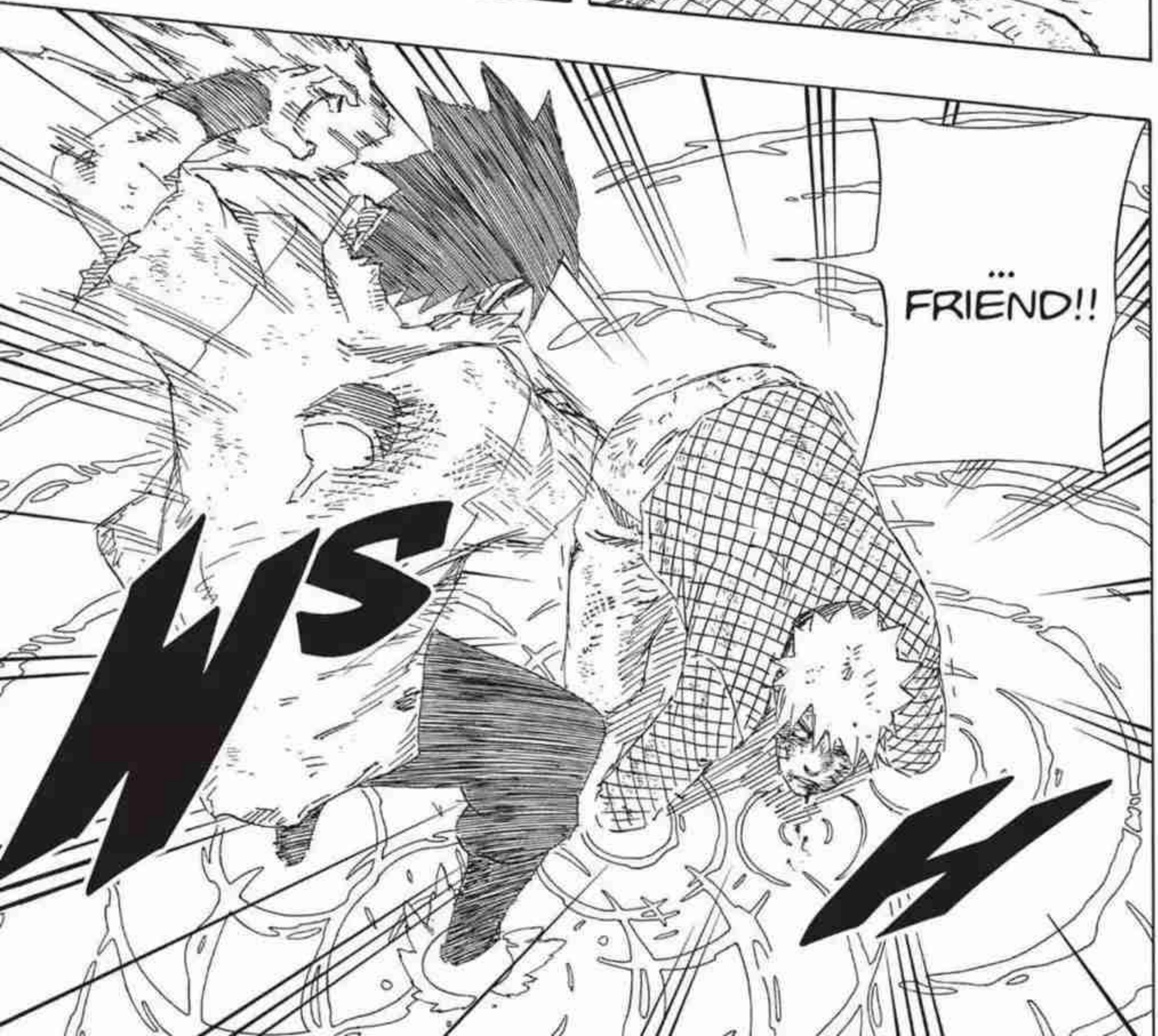
AS SOMEONE WHO POSSESSES THE EYES OF THE UCHIHA...

...MY VICTORY IS INEVITABLE ...

THIS IS ONE OF THE RINNEGAN'S ABILITIES...

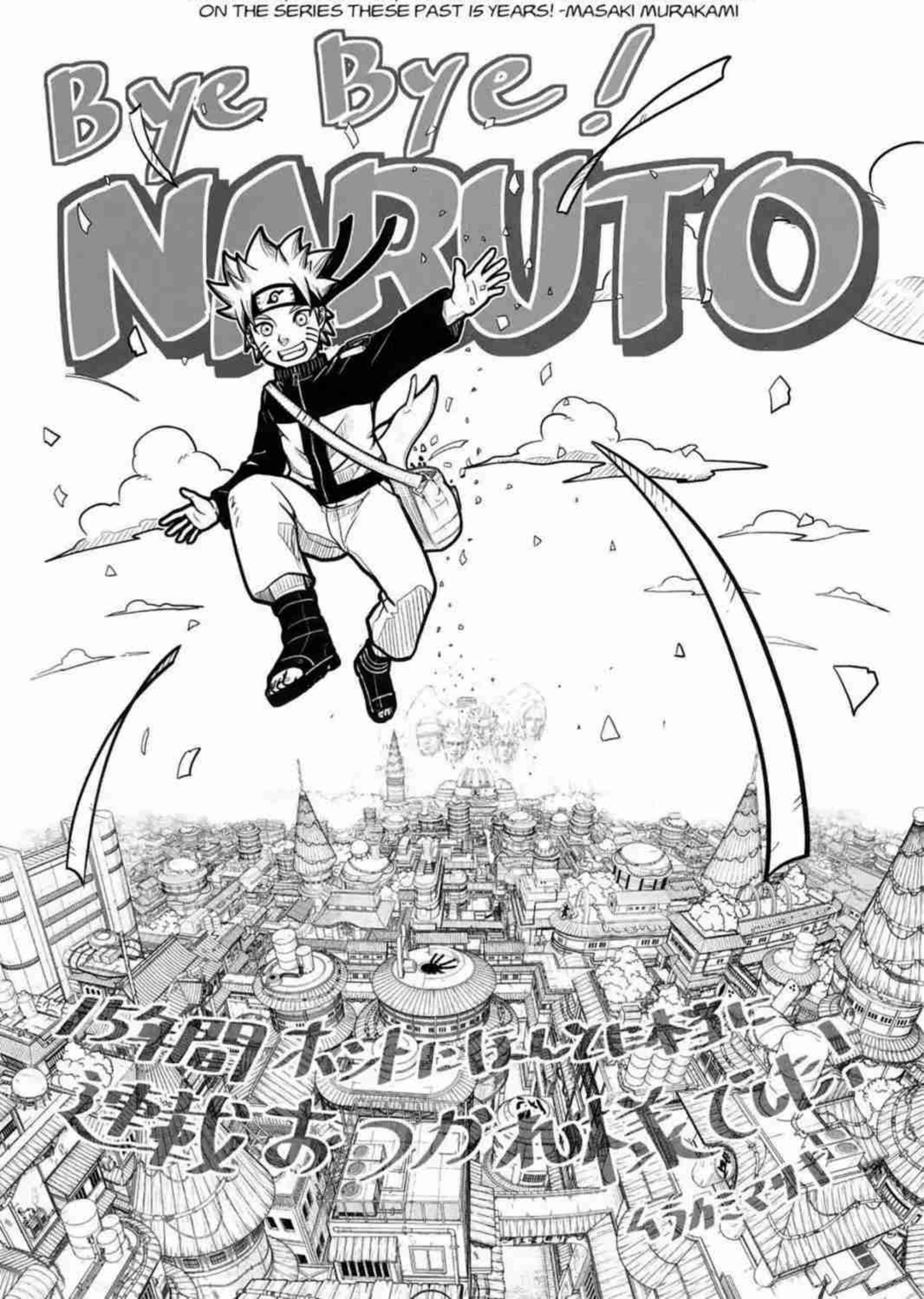
WSH...
FARE-WELL...
MY ONE AND ONLY...

WOBBLE
BZZZZZ
NOW... NOW, I CAN FINALLY BE ALONE...!

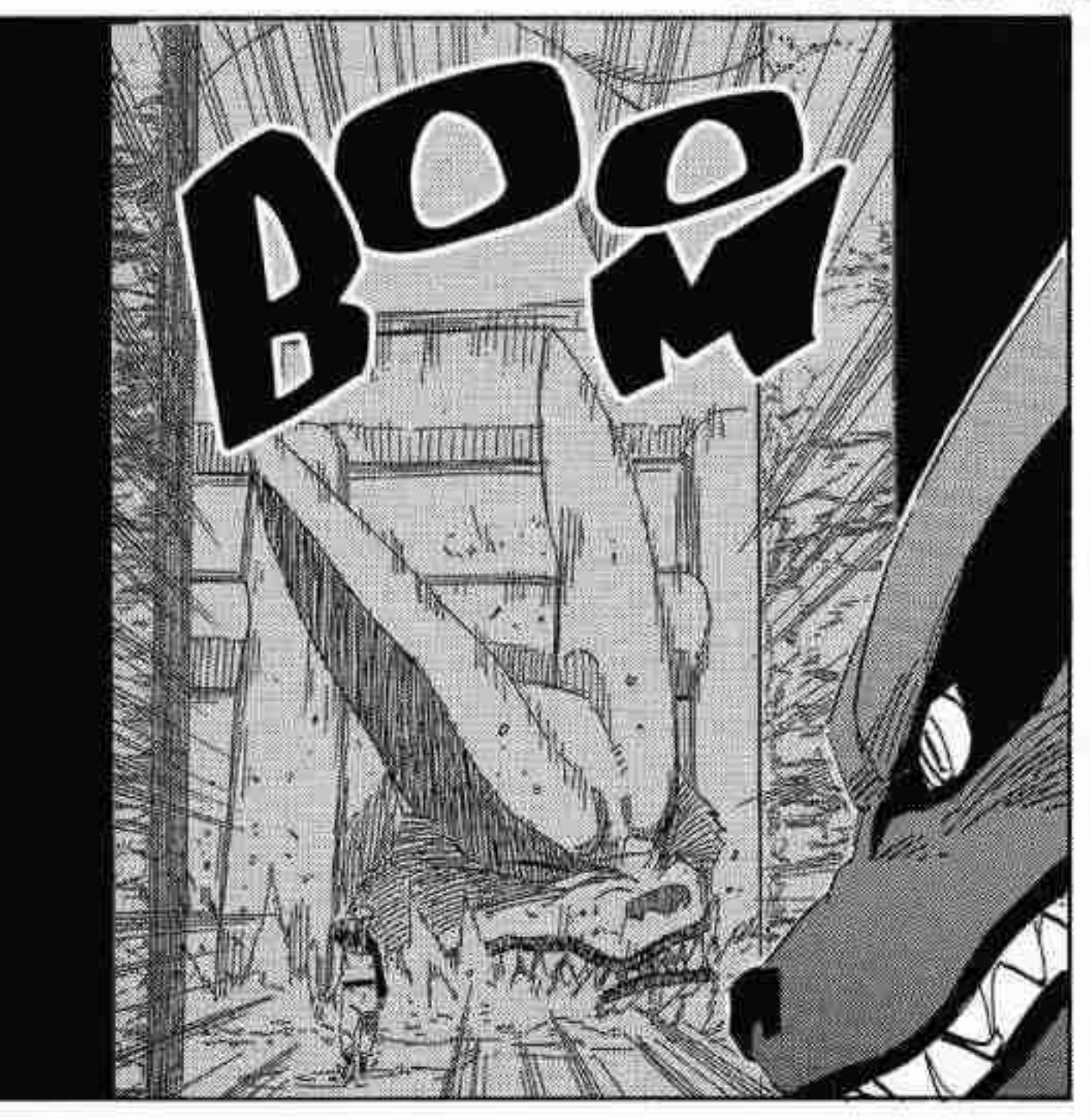

...
FRIEND!!
KS
K

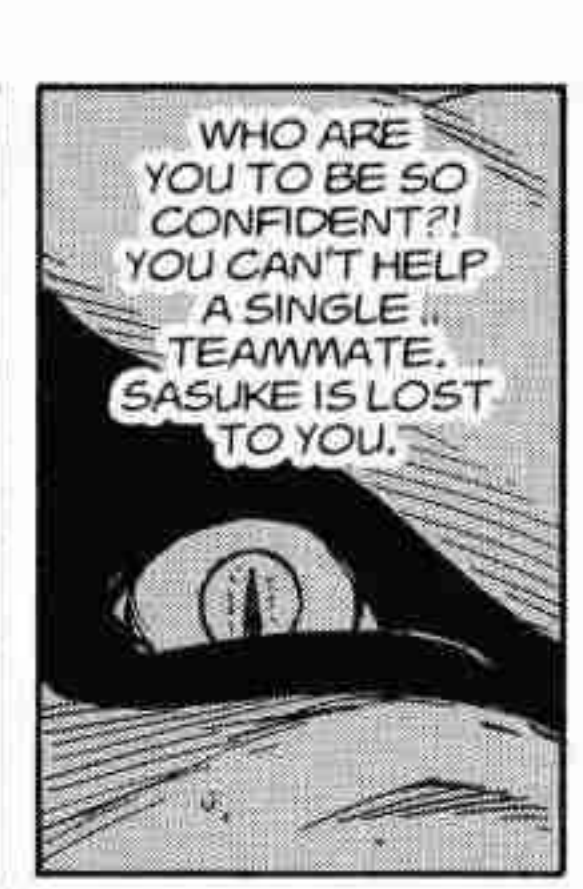
END OF SERIES COMMEMORATION ILLUSTRATION (7)

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK ON THE SERIES THESE PAST 15 YEARS! -MASAKI MURAKAMI



Number 698: Naruto and Sasuke, Part 5



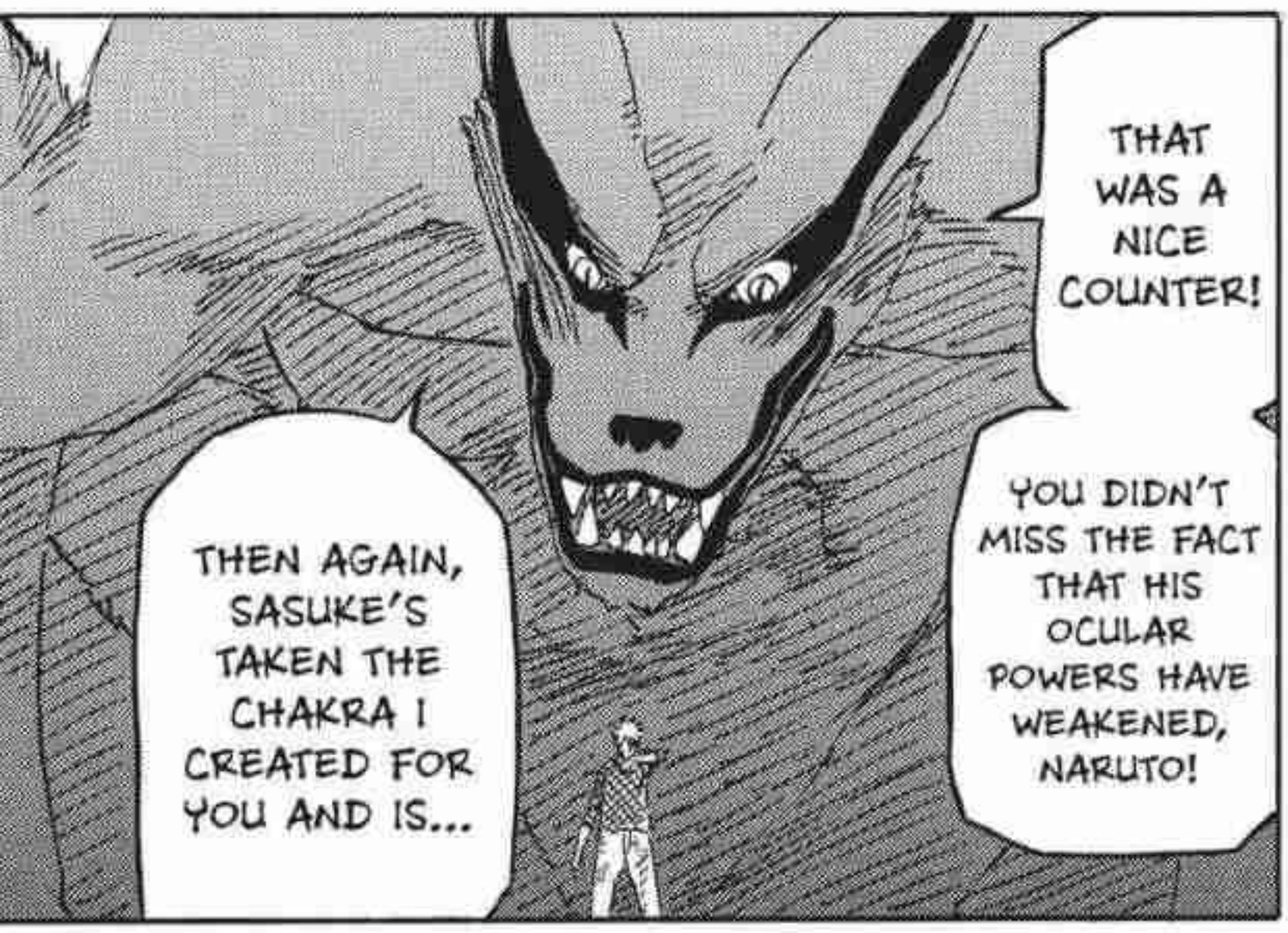


SL

ARGH!!

AM

GUH!!


THAT WAS A NICE COUNTER!
YOU DIDN'T MISS THE FACT THAT HIS OCULAR POWERS HAVE WEAKENED, NARUTO!
THEN AGAIN, SASUKE'S TAKEN THE CHAKRA I CREATED FOR YOU AND IS...

BZZZZ
UGH ...

HE TOOK PRETTY MUCH ALL THE CHAKRA I GAVE YOU.
I'M GOING TO HAND OVER WHAT REMAINS OF MY OWN CHAKRA.

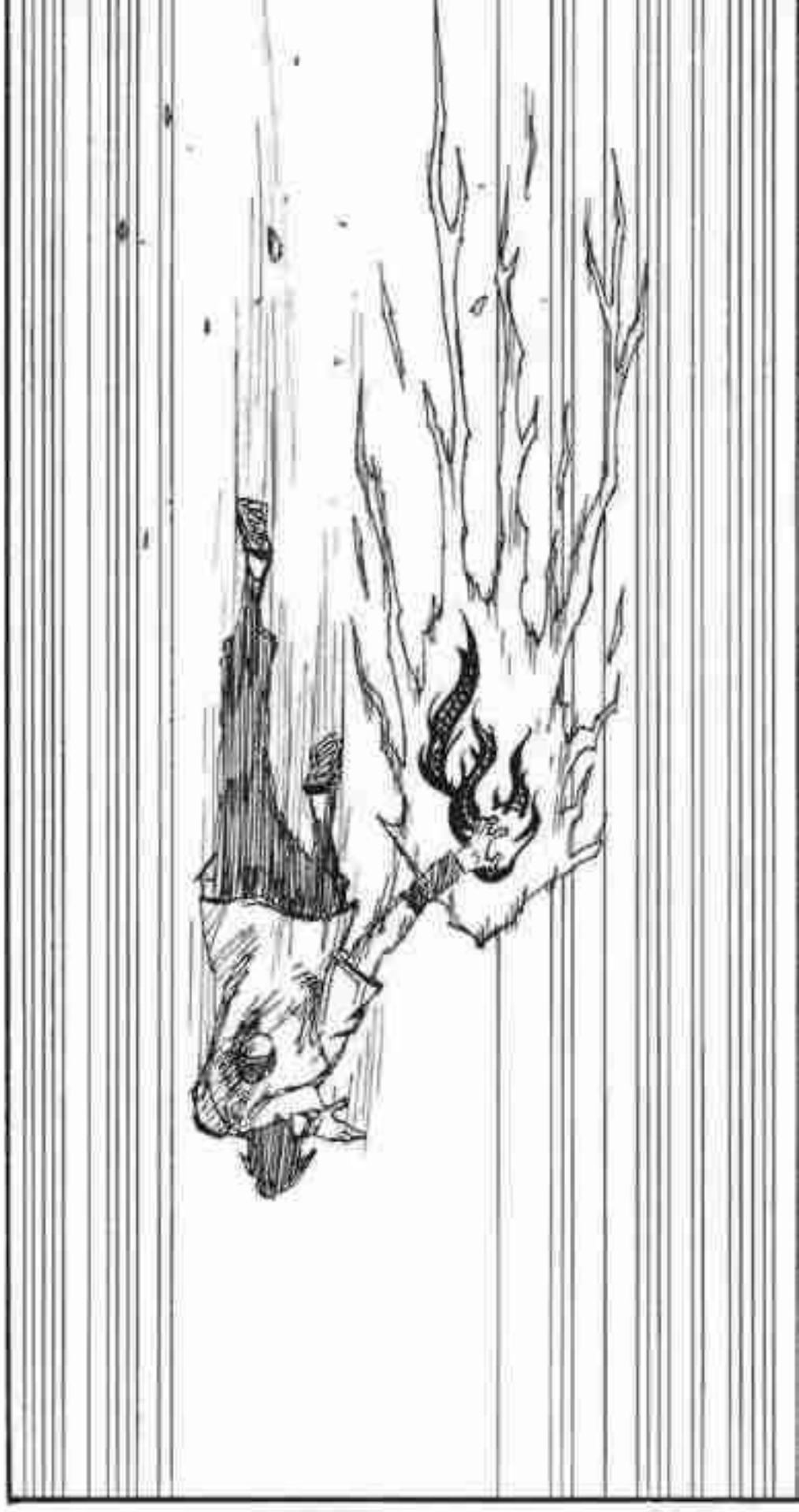
HE'S PLANNING TO USE EVERYTHING HE HAS TO SETTLE THINGS WITH THIS ONE LAST BLAST.
HE'S USING KAGUZUCHI...
BO
BZZZ
F...

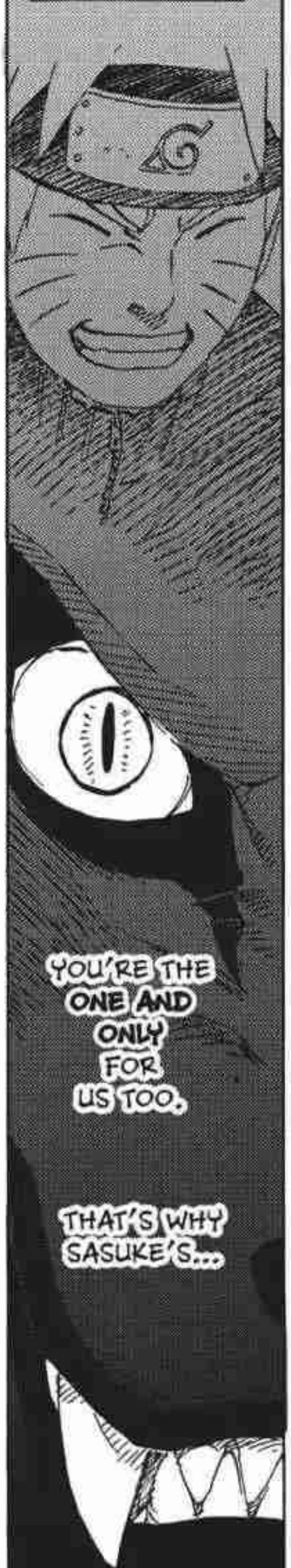
...MAKING IT HIS OWN...
SWOO...

...TO ABSORB CHAKRA WHILE PUTTING OUT HIS OWN JUTSU.
WELL, NOT THAT HE CAN USE HIS NEWLY AWAKENED RINNEGAN...
TA
K

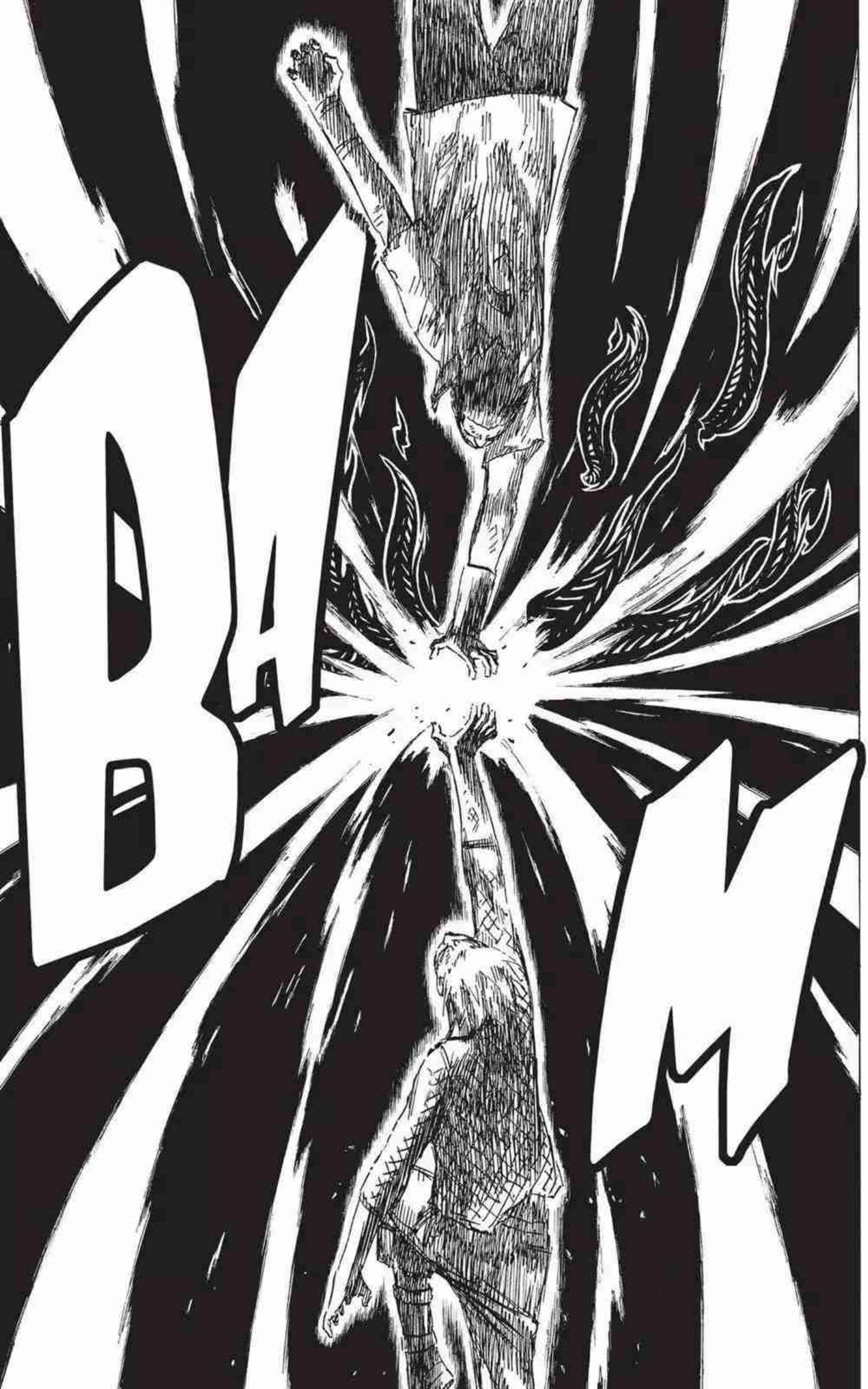
DON'T UNLEASH YOUR JUTSU UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE, SO HE DOESN'T ABSORB MORE CHAKRA FROM YOU.
BUT THAT'S THEN GOING TO PUT ME TO SLEEP.

I'M COMING AFTER ALL THAT HATE INSIDE YOU TOO SOMEDAY!

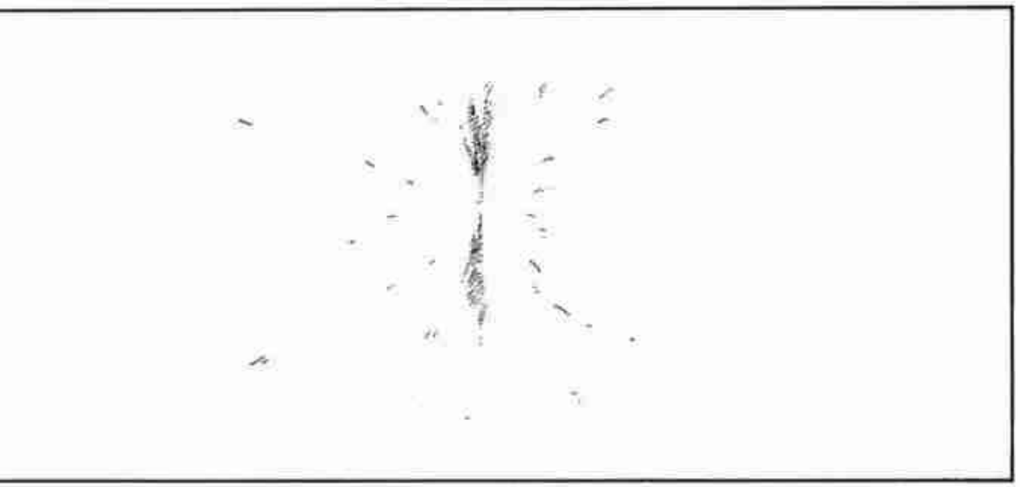


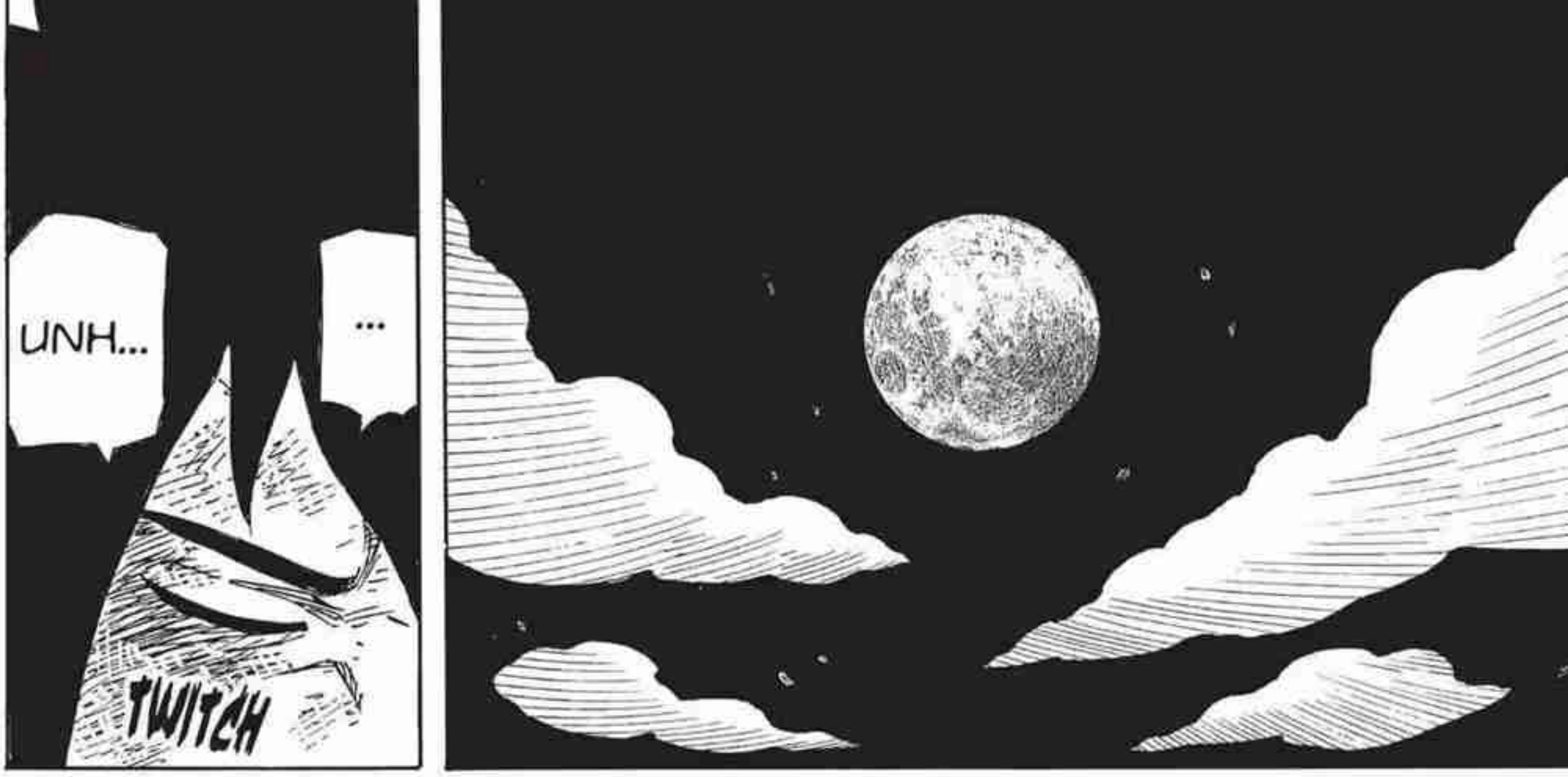

YOU'RE THE ONE AND ONLY FOR US TOO.
THAT'S WHY SASUKE'S...

NOW...
...GO!
WHRR
TAK

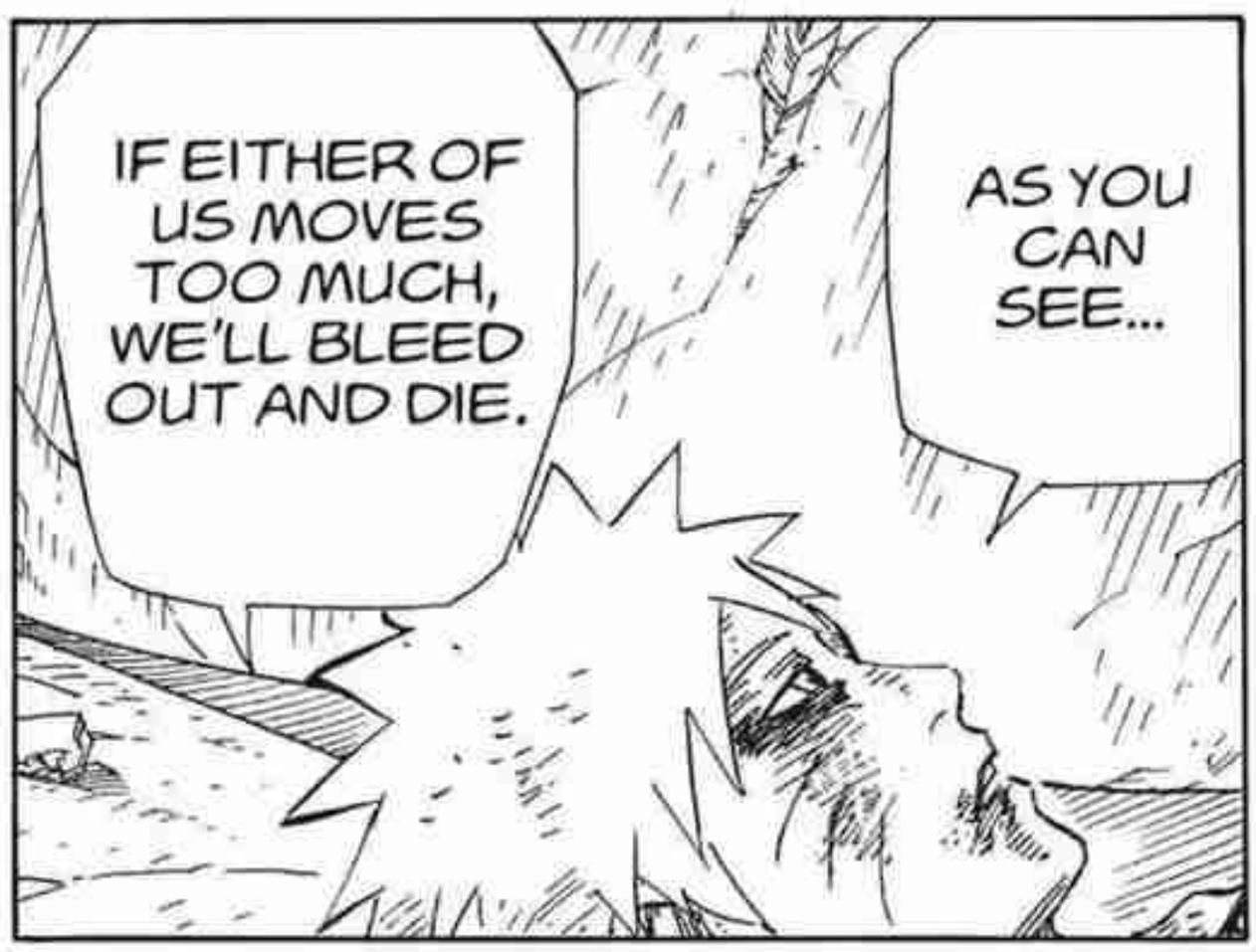

BAM

WH
AM




UNH...
...
TWITCH

OW...
YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO, EH...


IF EITHER OF US MOVES TOO MUCH, WE'LL BLEED OUT AND DIE.
AS YOU CAN SEE...

!

...

WHY DO ALL THAT JUST TO GET IN MY WAY?

WHY DO YOU GO THAT FAR...?

...

YOU'VE NEVER ATTEMPTED TO CUT ME OFF...

EXCEPT FOR YOU.

AND NATURALLY, EVERYONE'S TRIED TO CUT THEIR TIES TO ME TOO, AT SOME POINT.

...GAINED THE POWER TO ENTER DARKNESS AND SEVER ALL TIES.

...!...

...

NOW THAT YOUR BODY CAN'T MOVE, YOUR MOUTH SURE IS MOVING A LOT.

JUST ANSWER ME!!

WHY DO YOU KEEP INVOLVING YOURSELF WITH ME?!

YOU KNOW ALREADY, DON'T YOU?

NO MATTER WHAT.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HANDLE ALL THAT HATE!

...

...BUT WHAT EXACTLY...
...DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?
YOU'VE SAID THAT BEFORE...

CUZ YOU'RE MY FRIEND.

...

JUST THAT WHEN I SEE YOU TAKE ON STUFF AND GET ALL MESSED UP...
...IT KINDA...
YOU ASK ME TO EXPLAIN IT, BUT HONESTLY, IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY UNDERSTAND IT EITHER...

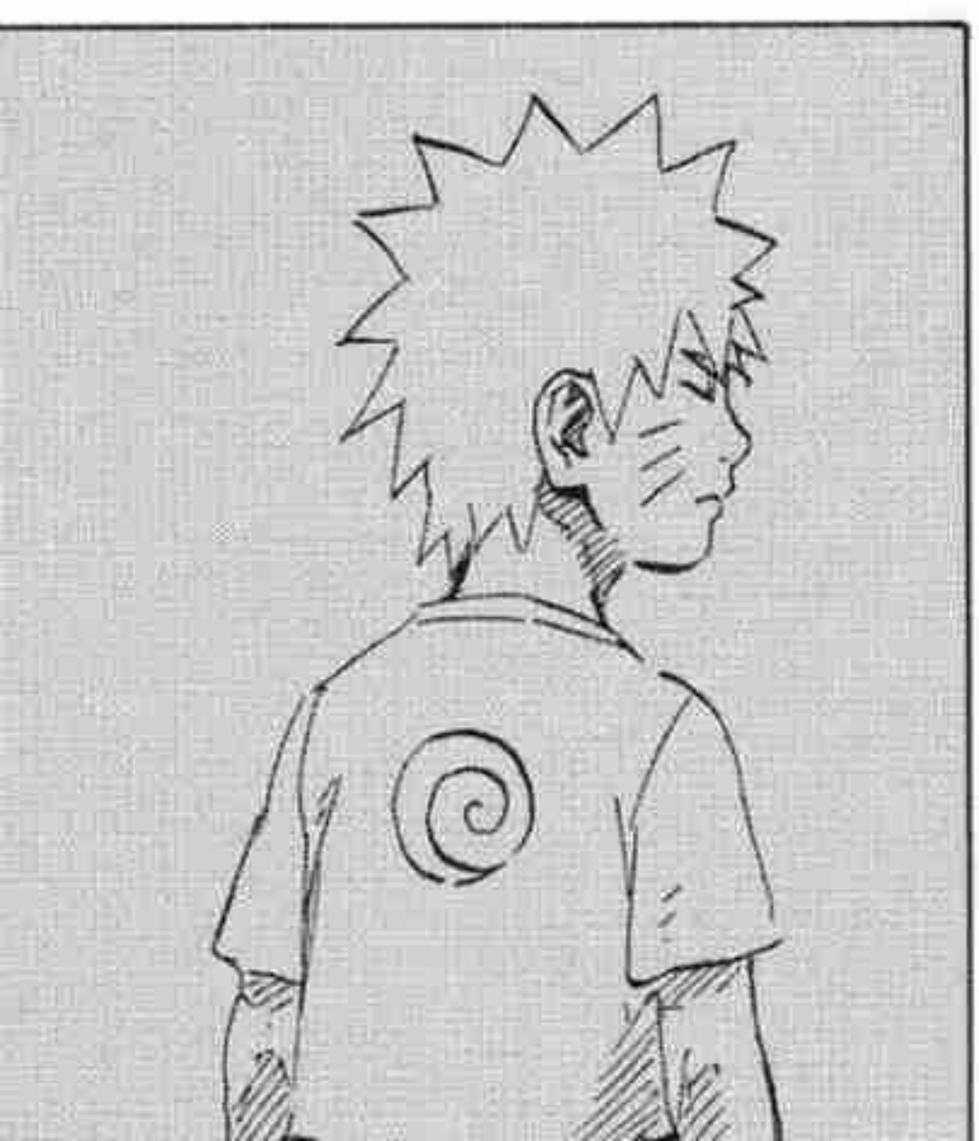
...

...HURTS.

...INSIDE SO MUCH, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT ALONE!
IT HURTS...

THOUGH TODAY I'M IN A TON OF PAIN EVERYWHERE.

...



OWW...

NARUTO...

THE VILLAGE SHUNNED YOU, JUST LIKE THEY DID ME, THE LONE UCHIHA SURVIVOR.

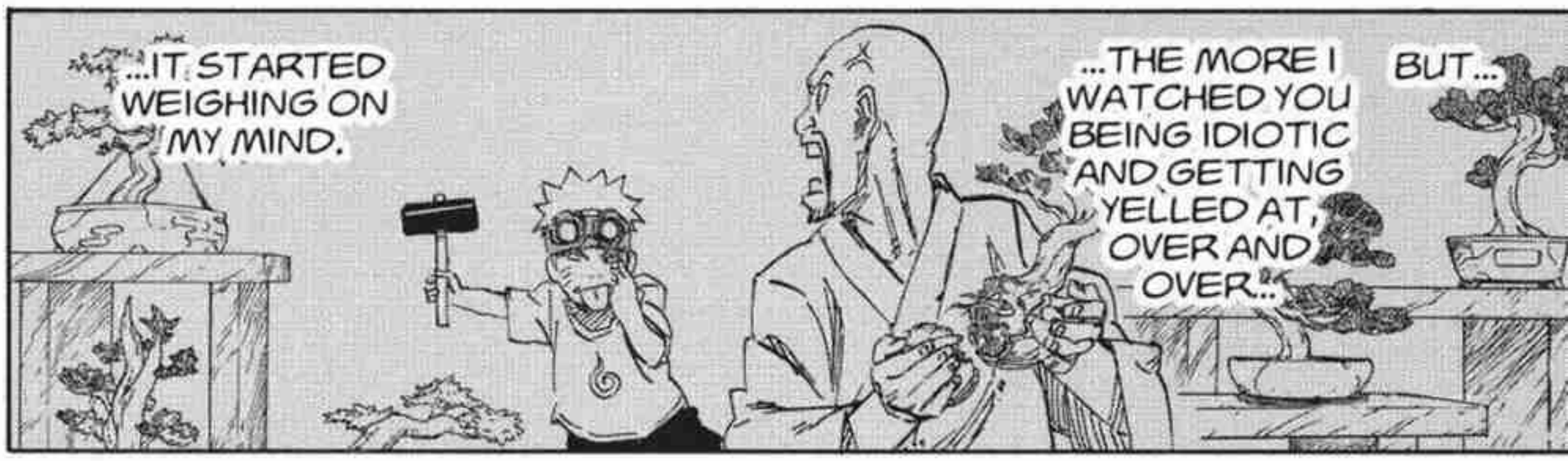
I KNEW YOU WERE ALWAYS ALL ALONE, LONG AGO.

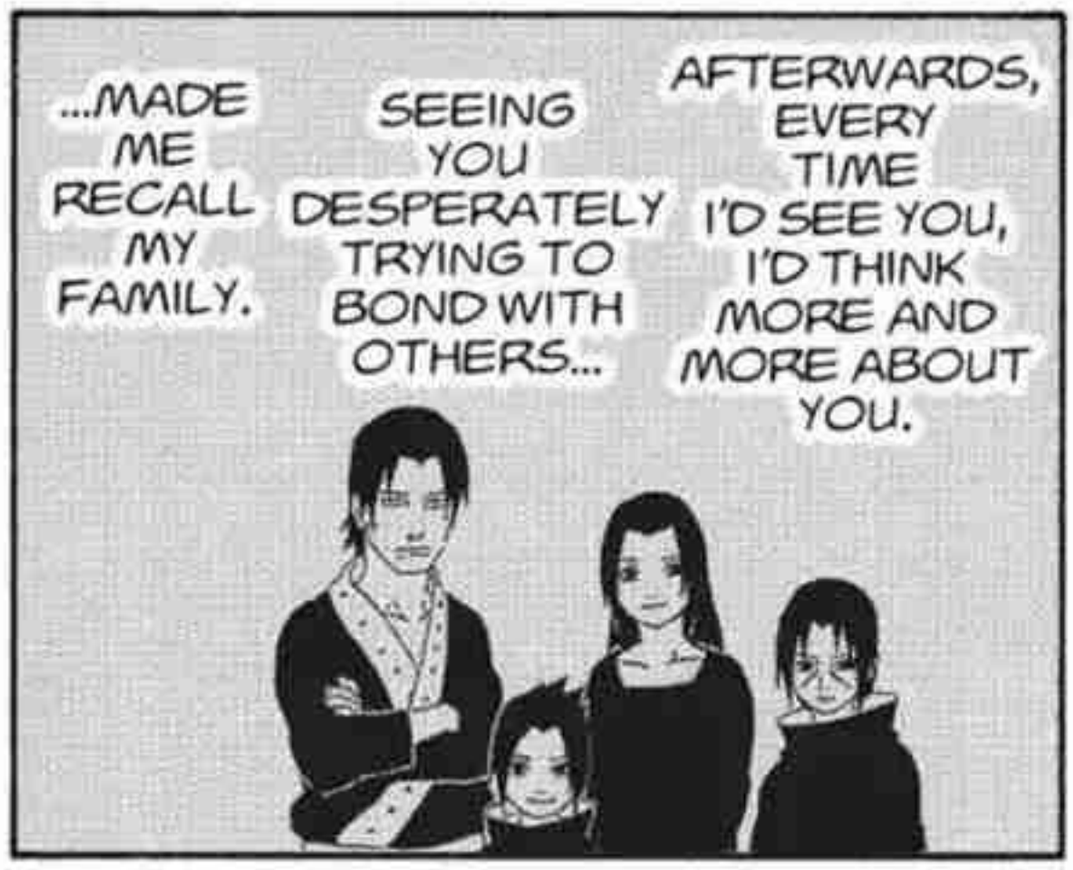
A WEAKLING ETERNALLY BEGGING FOR ATTENTION.

IN THE BEGINNING, I THOUGHT OF YOU AS A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING LOSER.

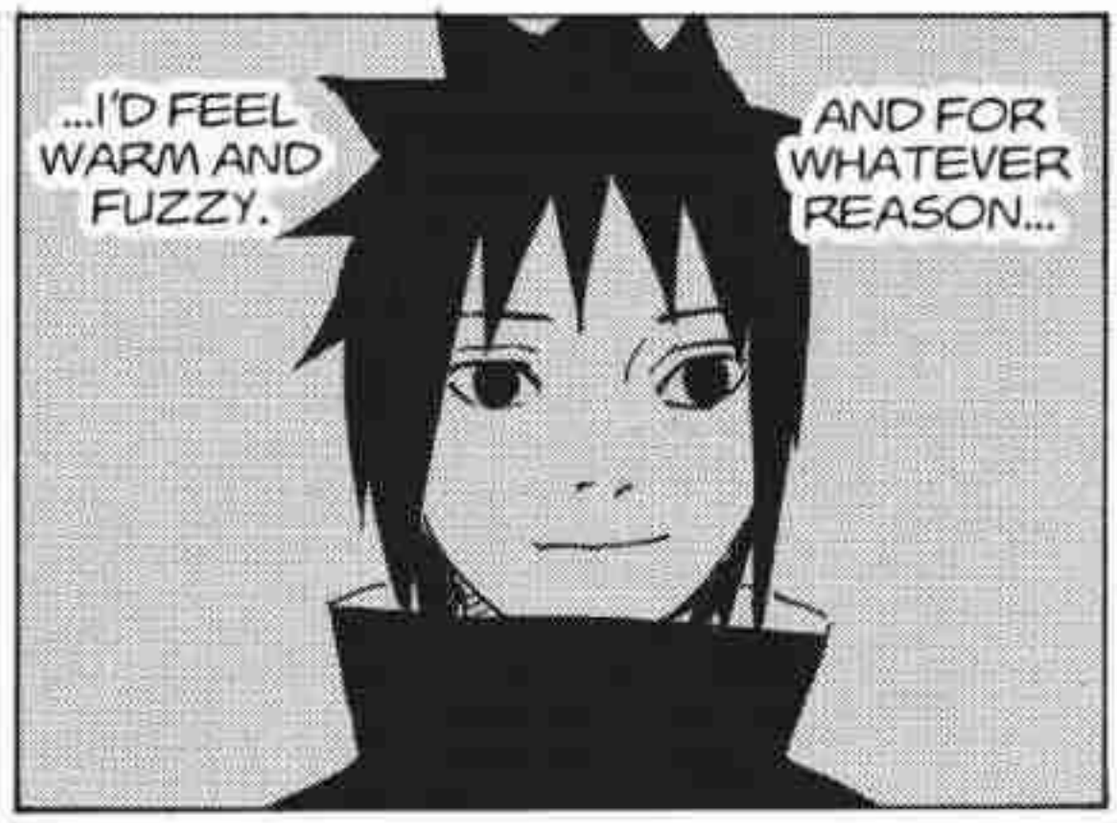
...AND GET PEOPLE'S ATTENTION.

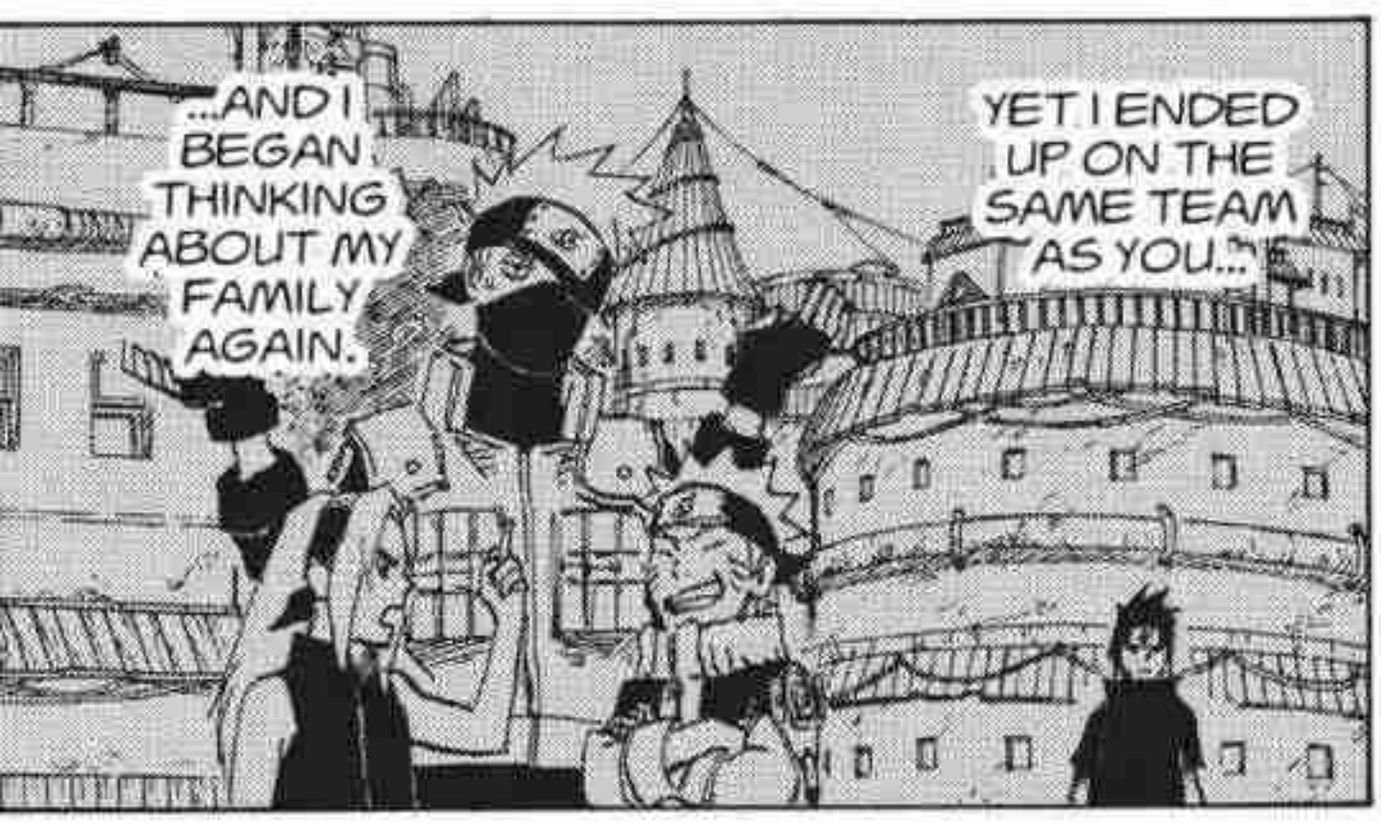
YOU INTENTIONALLY DID STUPID THINGS TO GET SCOLDED...





...I CONSIDERED IT A WEAKNESS.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME...


...I'D FEEL WARM AND FUZZY.
AND FOR WHATEVER REASON...

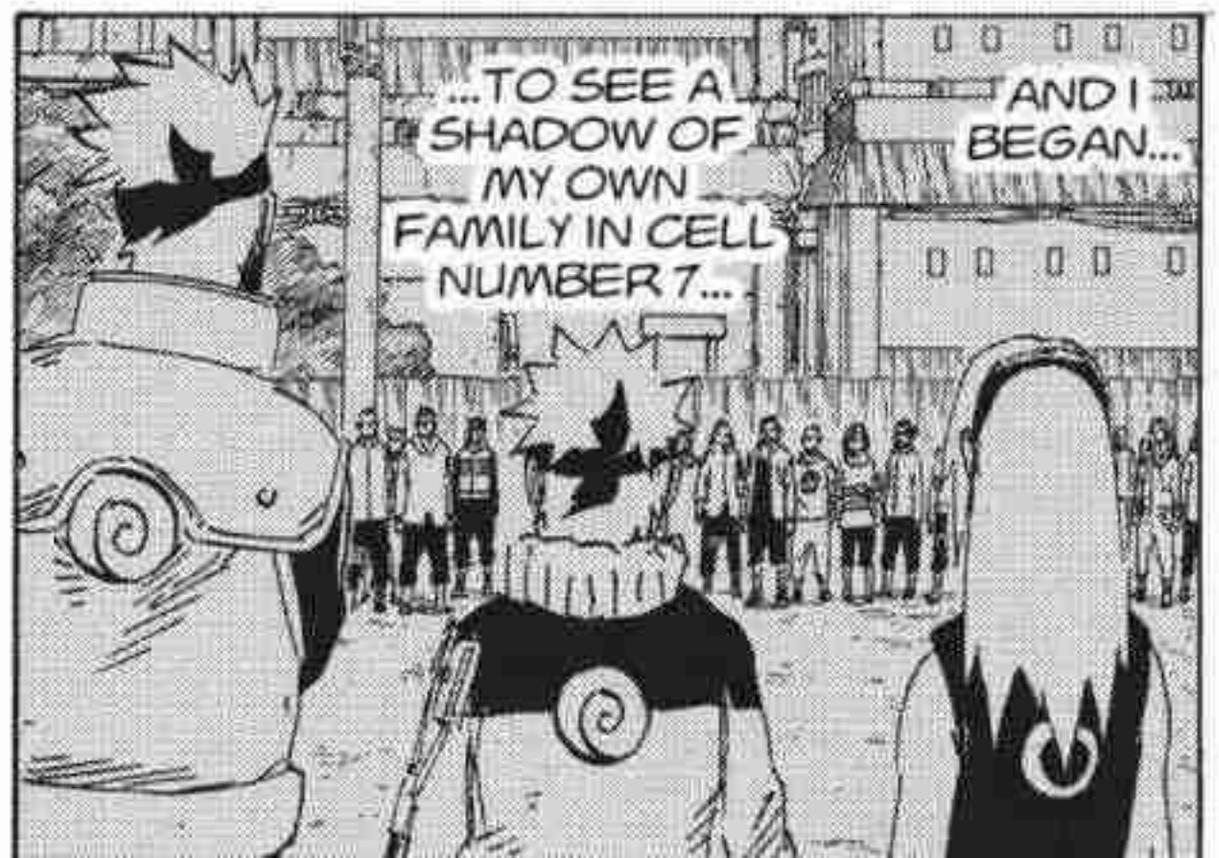

...AND I BEGAN THINKING ABOUT MY FAMILY AGAIN.
YET I ENDED UP ON THE SAME TEAM AS YOU...

IN ORDER TO GET STRONGER THAN MY BROTHER. IN ORDER TO GET MY REVENGE.
I TRAINED HARD, AS IF TO ESCAPE THAT WEAKNESS...

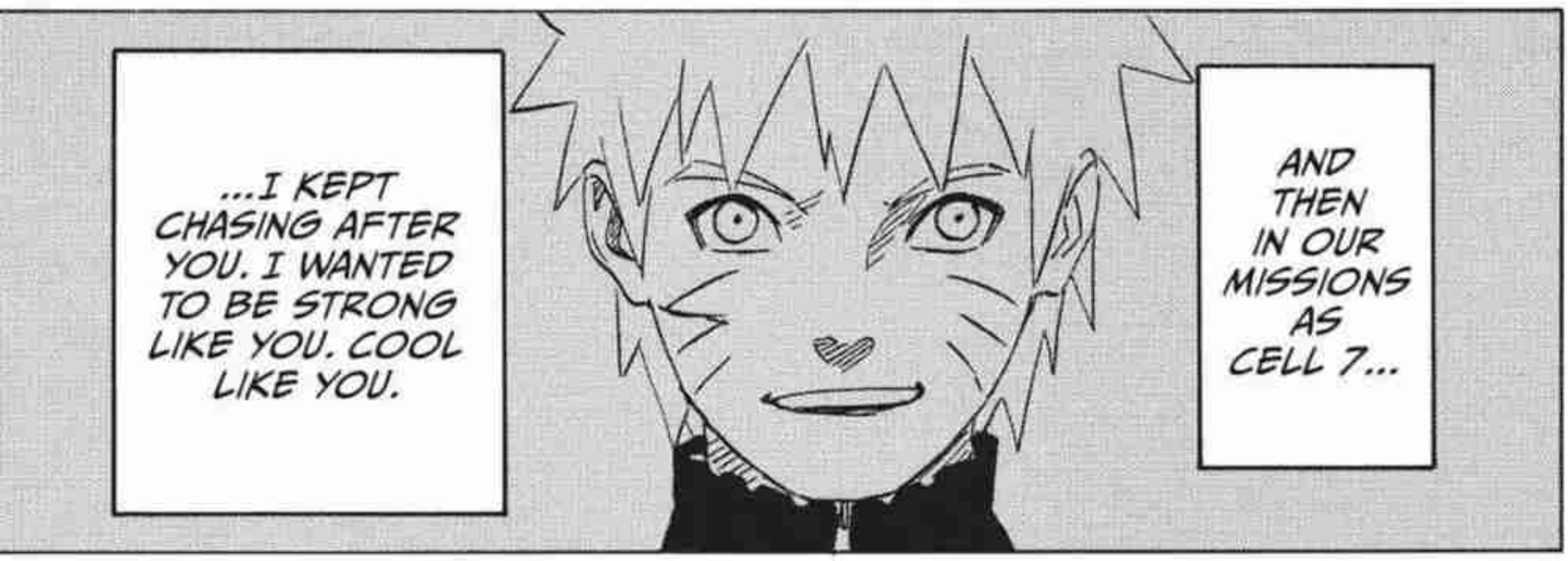
...STARTED WANTING TO BATTLE YOU TOO, SOMEDAY.

COMPLETING MISSIONS WITH YOU, WHO JABBERED ON AND ON ABOUT BECOMING HOKAGE...
...I SAW BOTH OF US GETTING STRONGER AND...

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT...
THAT'S WHY, EVERY TIME I SAW YOU SUFFERING...


...TO SEE A SHADOW OF MY OWN FAMILY IN CELL NUMBER 7...
AND I BEGAN...

...I TOO FELT PAIN.

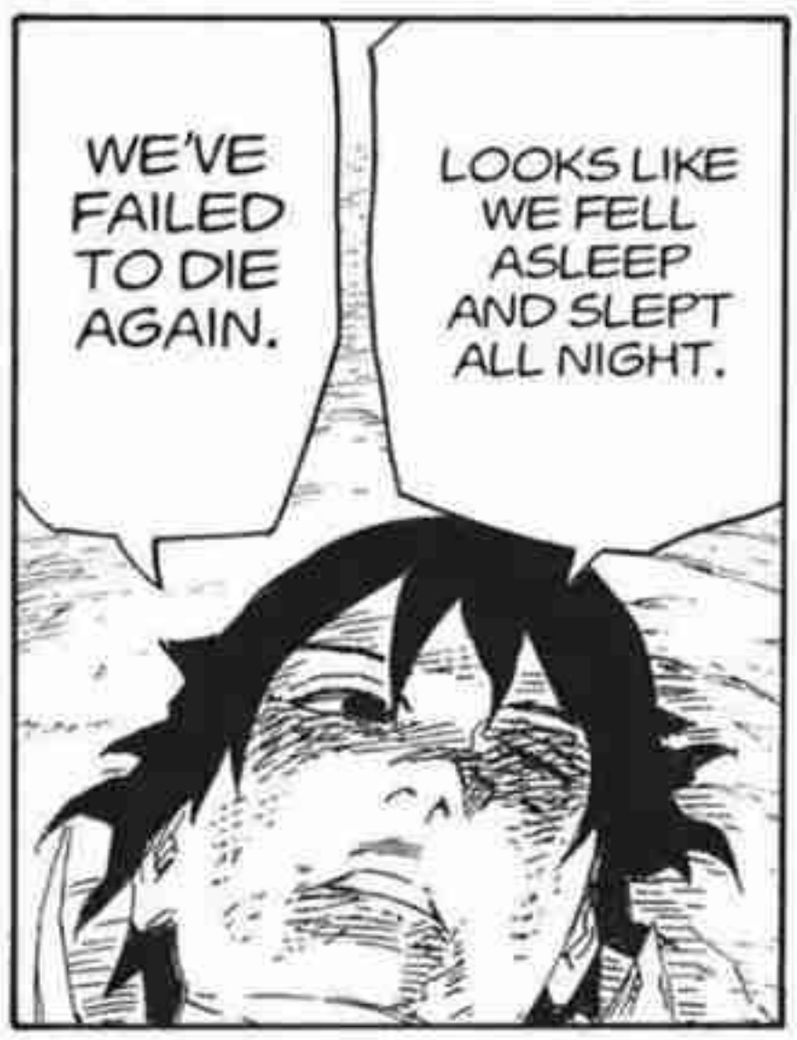

...I KEPT CHASING AFTER YOU. I WANTED TO BE STRONG LIKE YOU. COOL LIKE YOU.
AND THEN IN OUR MISSIONS AS CELL 7...

YOU HAD A STRENGTH THAT I DIDN'T HAVE...

I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS JEALOUS OF YOU.
IT WAS THE OPPOSITE...

AND TODAY TOO...

YOU WERE ALWAYS WALKING IN FRONT OF ME...
JUST LIKE MY LATE BROTHER...


WE'VE FAILED TO DIE AGAIN.
LOOKS LIKE WE FELL ASLEEP AND SLEPT ALL NIGHT.

?!
THIS ISN'T HEAVEN, IS IT...?!
WHERE ARE WE?

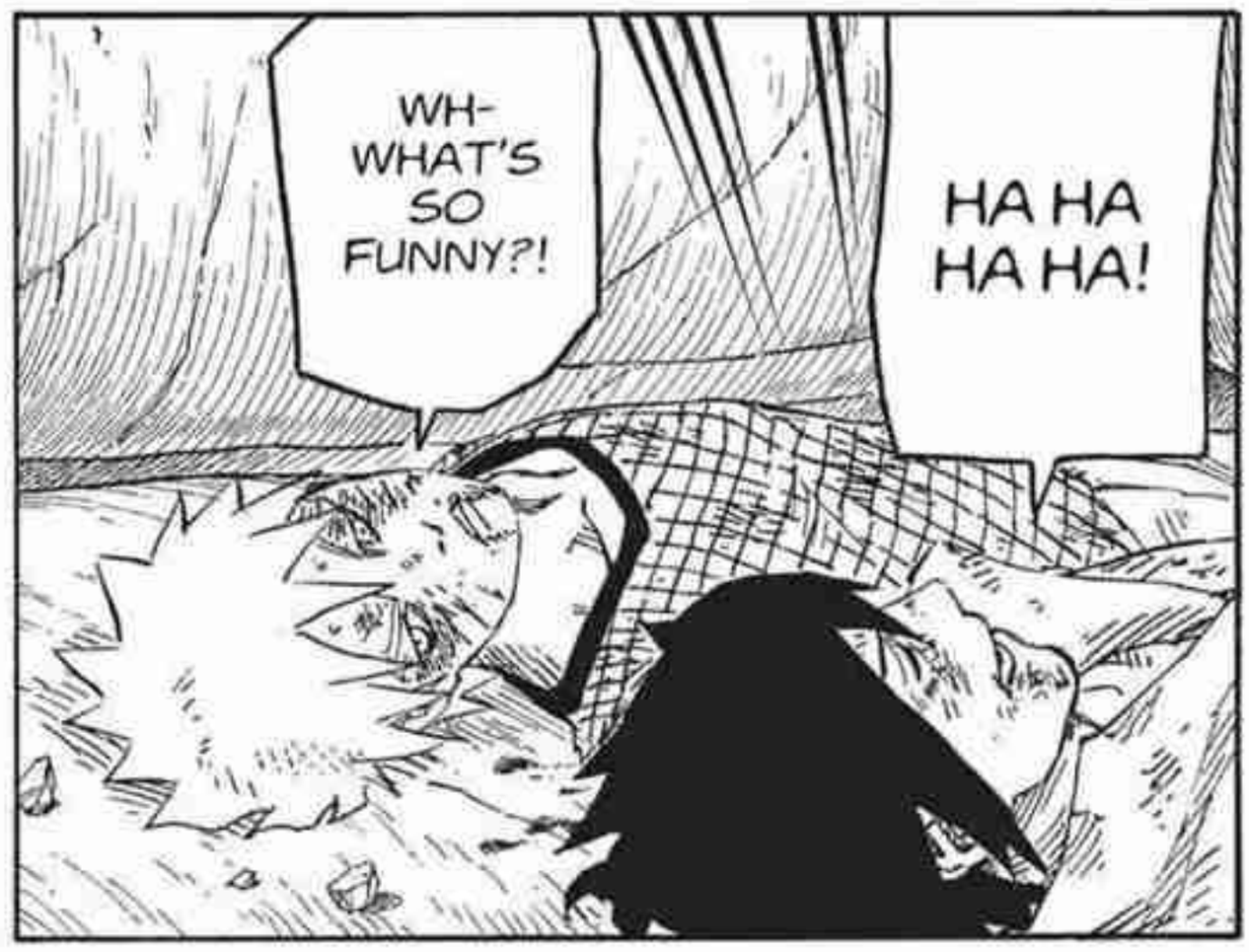
UNH...
...!

?

HEH HEH HEH...
HEH HEH...

I WAS HOPING TO CLOBBER YOU AND MAKE YOU FINALLY, REALLY OPEN YOUR EYES!
I STILL CAN'T MOVE MY BODY!
G-GAH!
QUIVV QUIVV...

WE'RE ALL MESSED UP, AND YOU STILL WANT TO FIGHT?


WH-WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
HA HA HA HA!

?

I ADMIT IT...
OF COURSE!! NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES IT TAKES...

...I'VE LOST.
THAT...

...
FSH...

THE REAL MATCH THAT I WANT COMES AFTER THAT!!

THIS FIGHT ISN'T ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING!!
FOOL!!
IT'S ABOUT PUNCHING A SULKING FRIEND AND MAKING HIM SNAP OUT OF IT!!

IF I DIE HERE, THE LONG CYCLE OF DESTINY THE SAGE OF SIX PATHS MENTIONED WILL PROBABLY END AS WELL.
I'VE ACKNOWL-EDGED YOU NOW...
HEY, NARUTO ...
HUH?

...

YOU CAN UNDO THE INFINITE TSUKUYOMI AFTER I'M DEAD...
...BY TRANS-PLANTING MY LEFT EYE INTO KAKASHI OR SOMEONE ELSE.
THIS IS A TYPE OF REVOLUTION TOO.

IF YOU'D GO THAT FAR, THEN LIVE AND HELP ME INSTEAD!!
DON'T YOU DARE!
YOU DYING AIN'T GONNA SETTLE THINGS!!

I...WILL PUT AN END TO MYSELF.

JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT THAT DOESN'T MEAN OTHERS WILL AGREE TO IT.
...I'LL BEAT YOU UP AGAIN!!
YEESH! FINE, GO AHEAD, KEEP SULKING AND WHINING...

INCLUDING YOU, OF COURSE!!
WHAT I WANNA DO IS GET ALL SHINOBI TO COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER!!

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
...

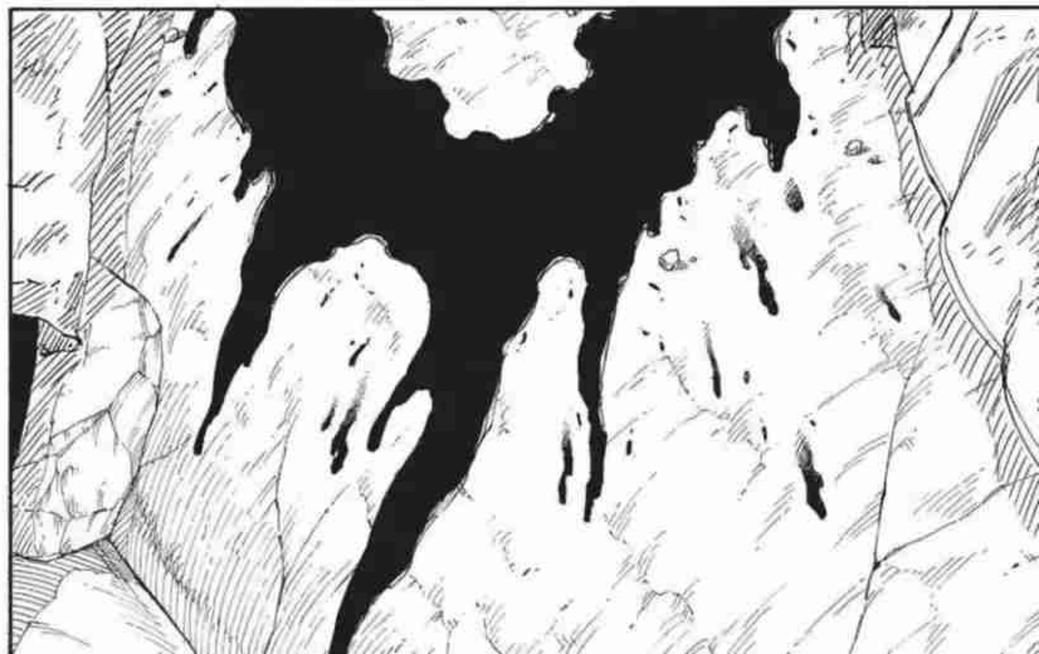
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE I WON'T STAND AGAINST YOU AGAIN.
ACTUALLY, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO THAT KIND OF THING ANYMORE!
THEN I'LL STOP YOU AGAIN!!

SHUT UP... YOU BUFFOON.

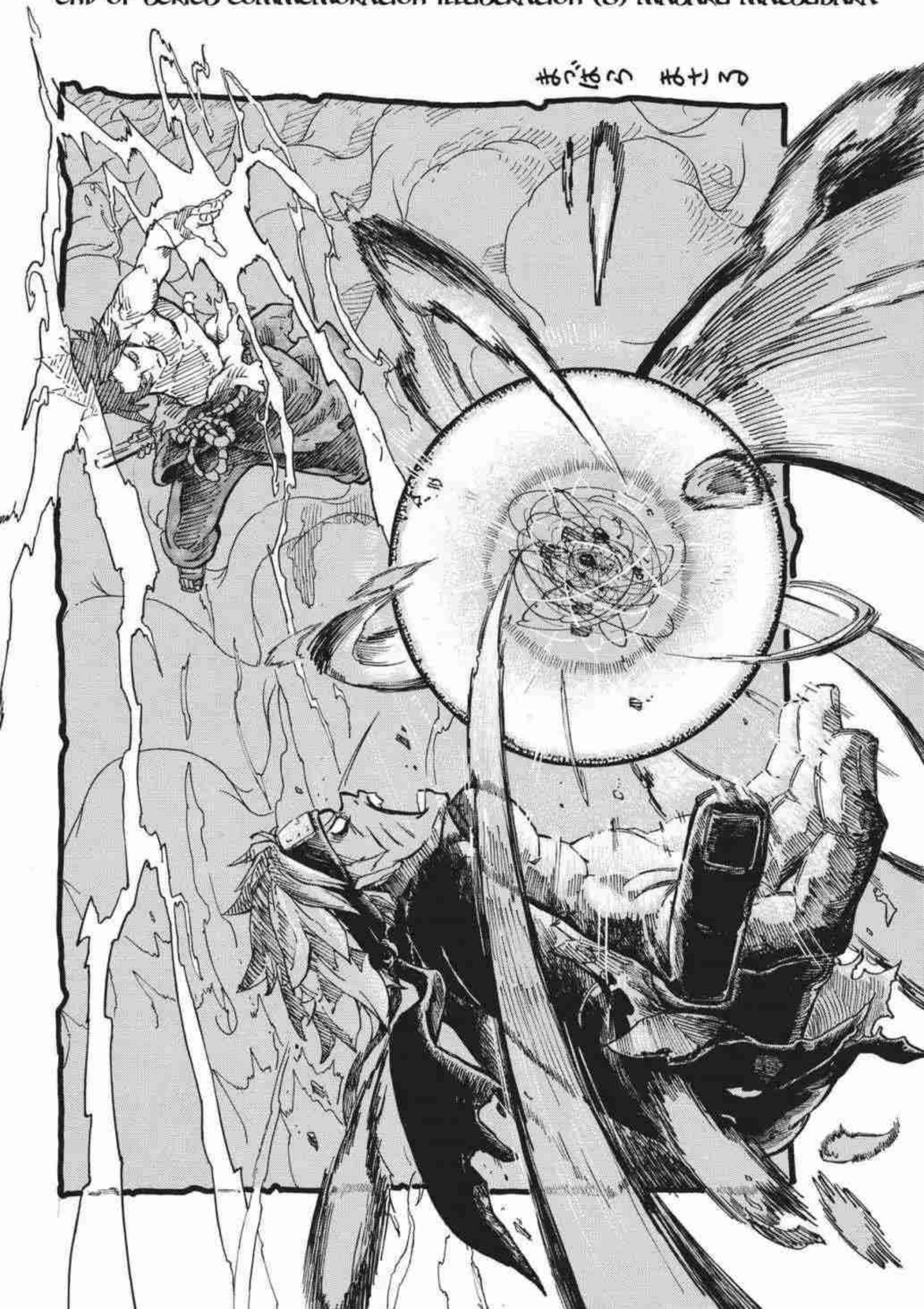
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU WERE ALWAYS PRETTY STUPID TOO!

DO YOU STILL NOT UNDER-STAND ANYTHING?!

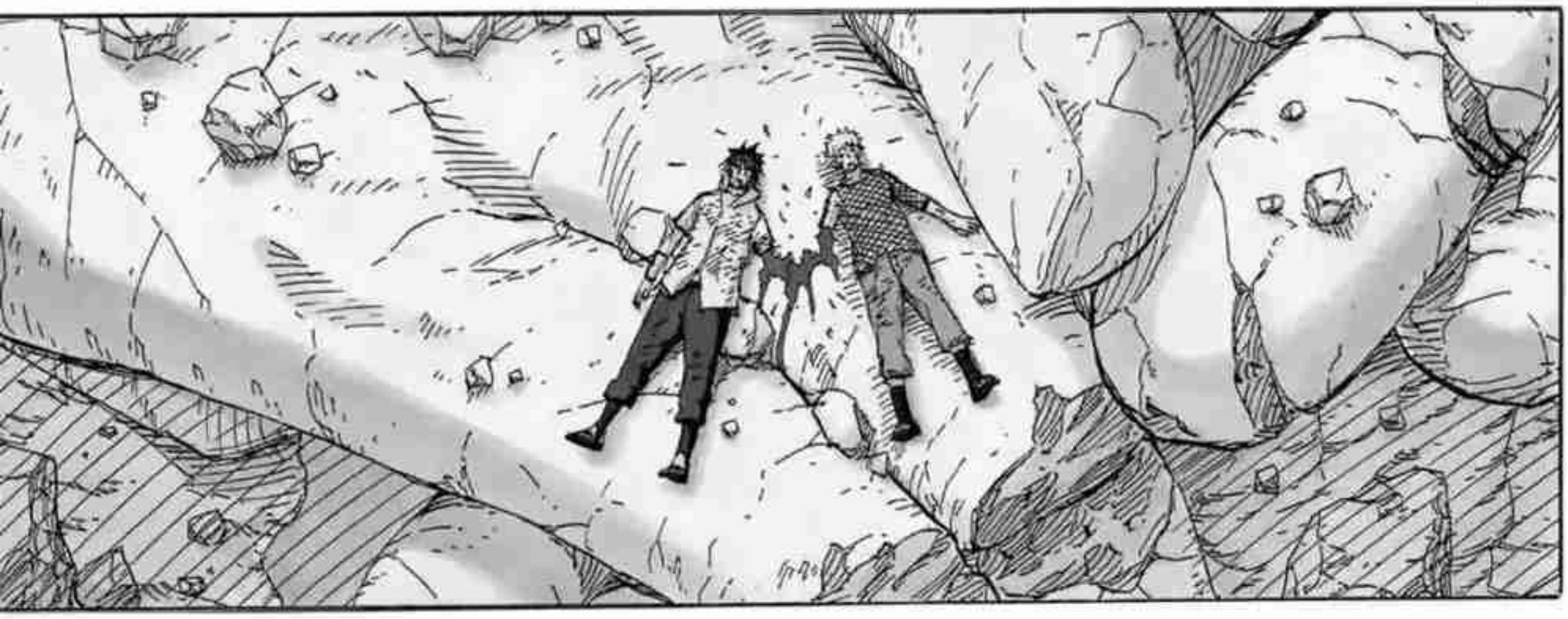
DON'T MAKE ME KEEP REPEATING MYSELF!!

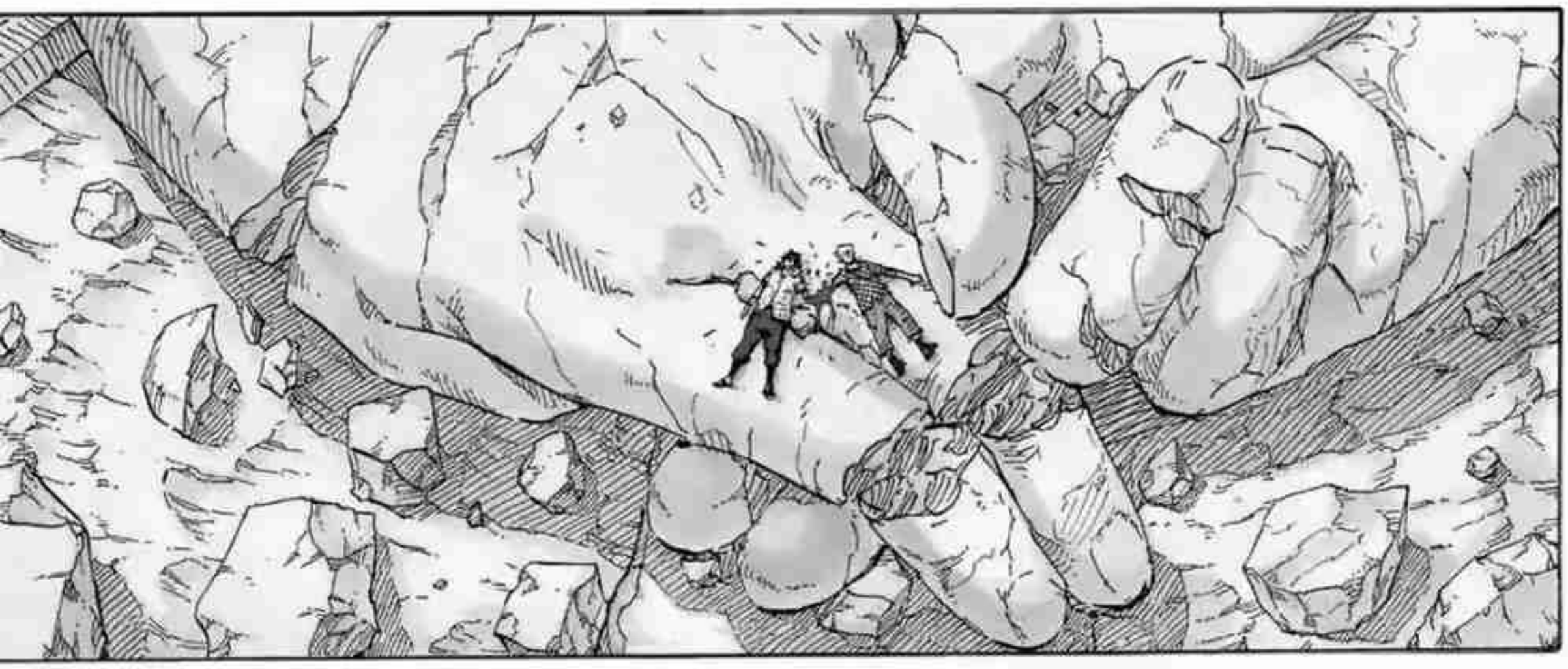


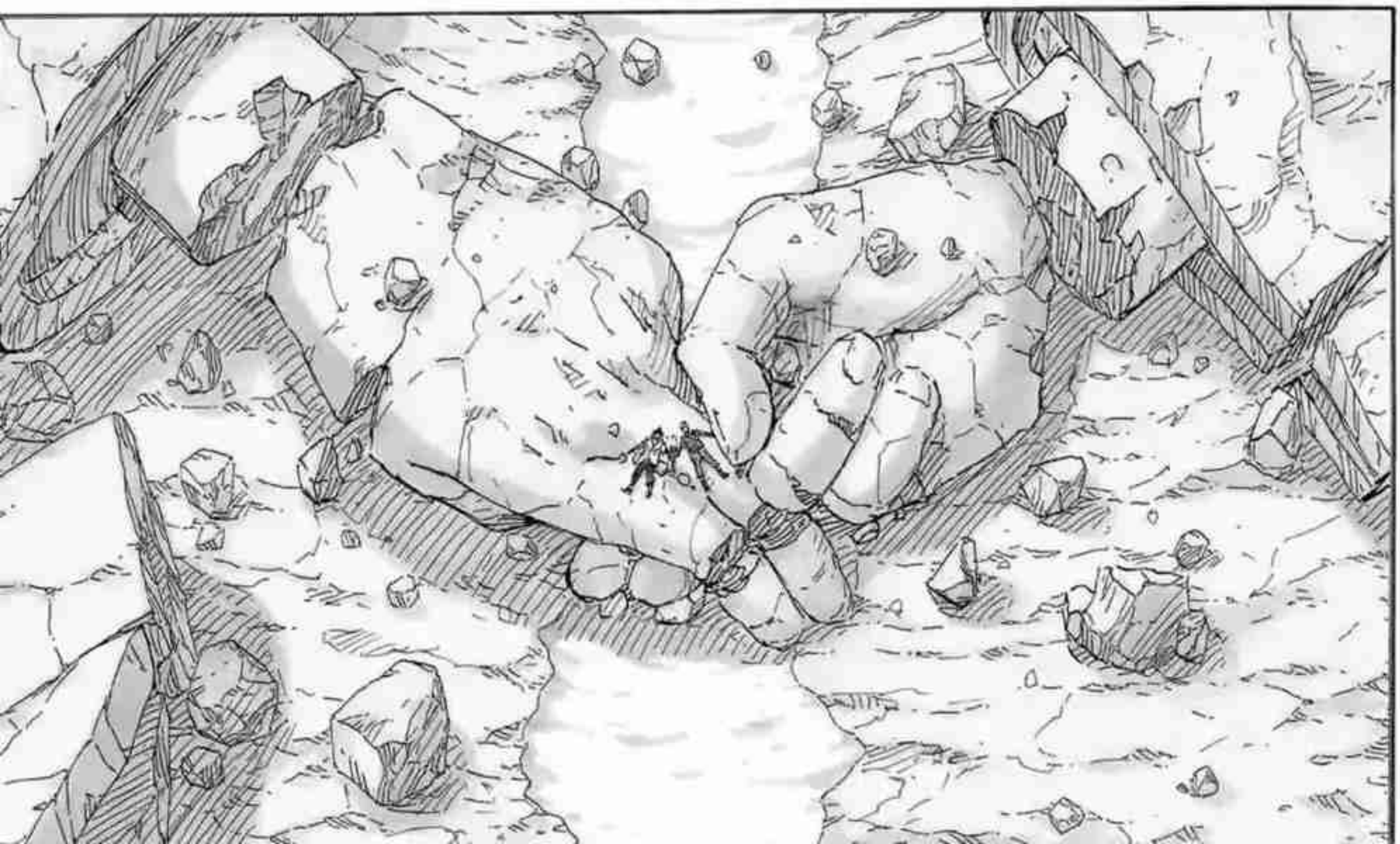
END OF SERIES COMMEMORATION ILLUSTRATION (8) MASARU MATSUBARA



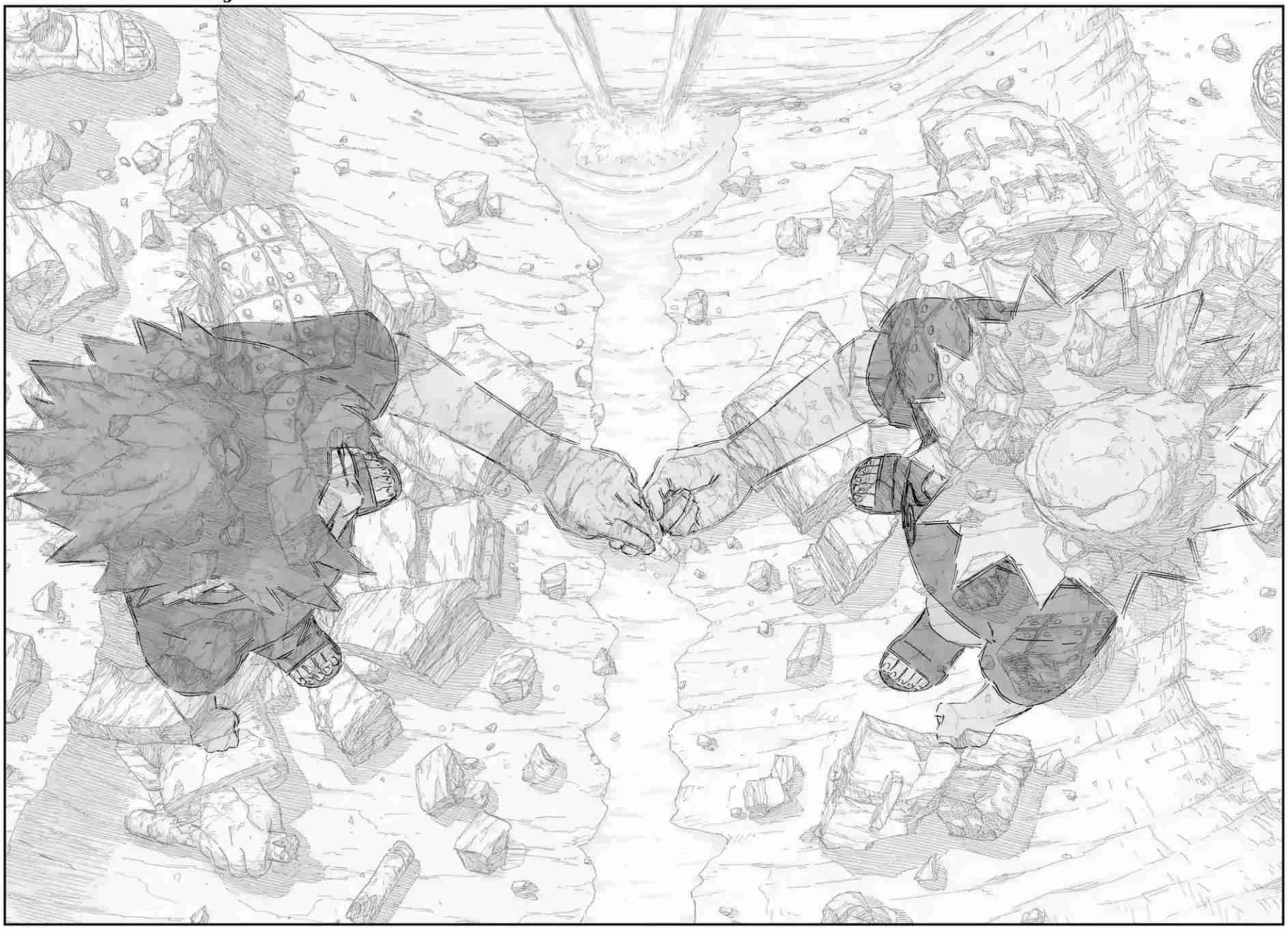
Number 699: Unison Sign







Number 699: Unison Sign

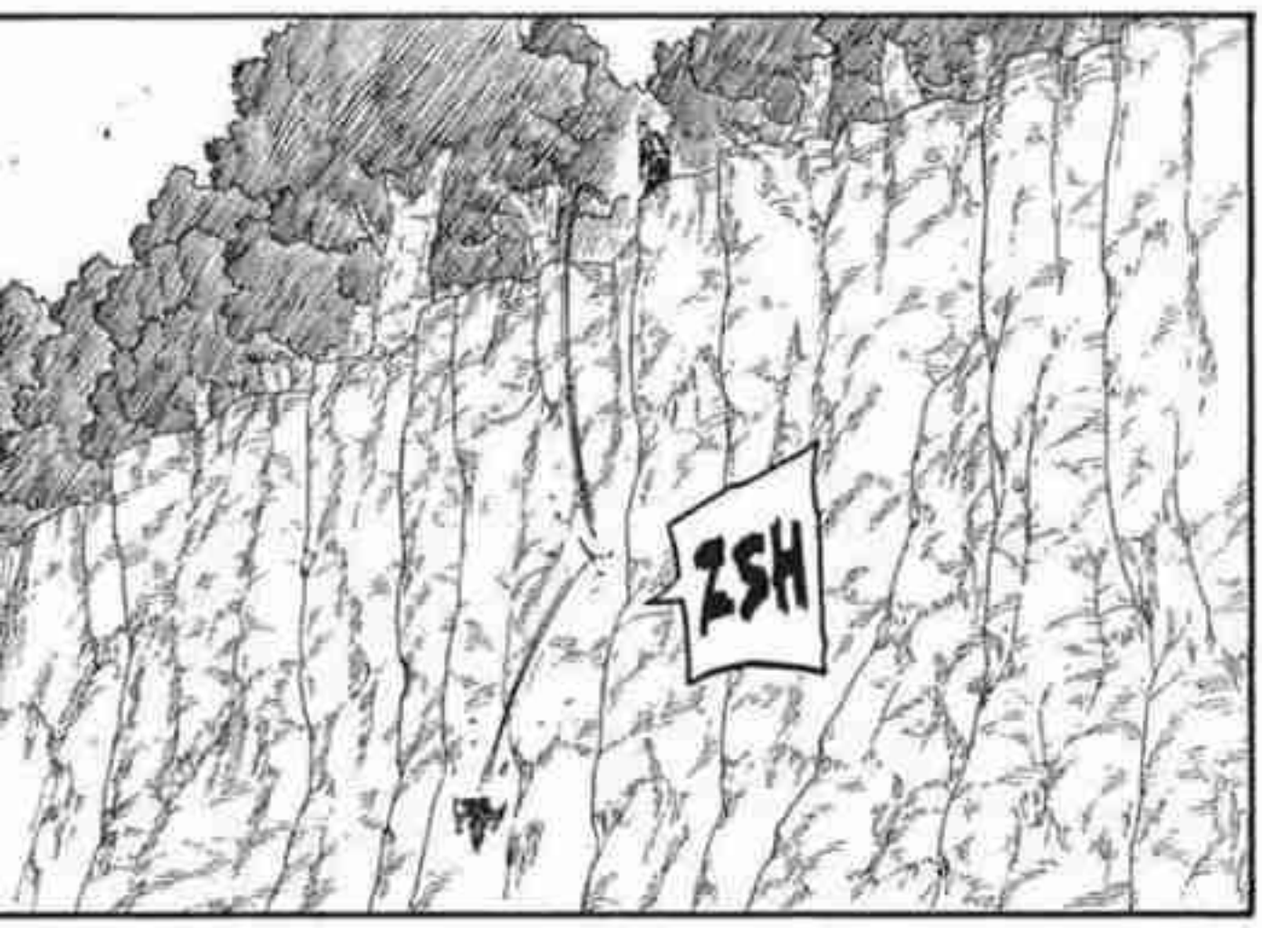


END OF SERIES COMMEMORATION ILLUSTRATION (9)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK ON THE SERIES. I'M REALLY SAD, BUT IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE! I HOPE TO WORK WITH YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY.
-ATSUHIRO SATO

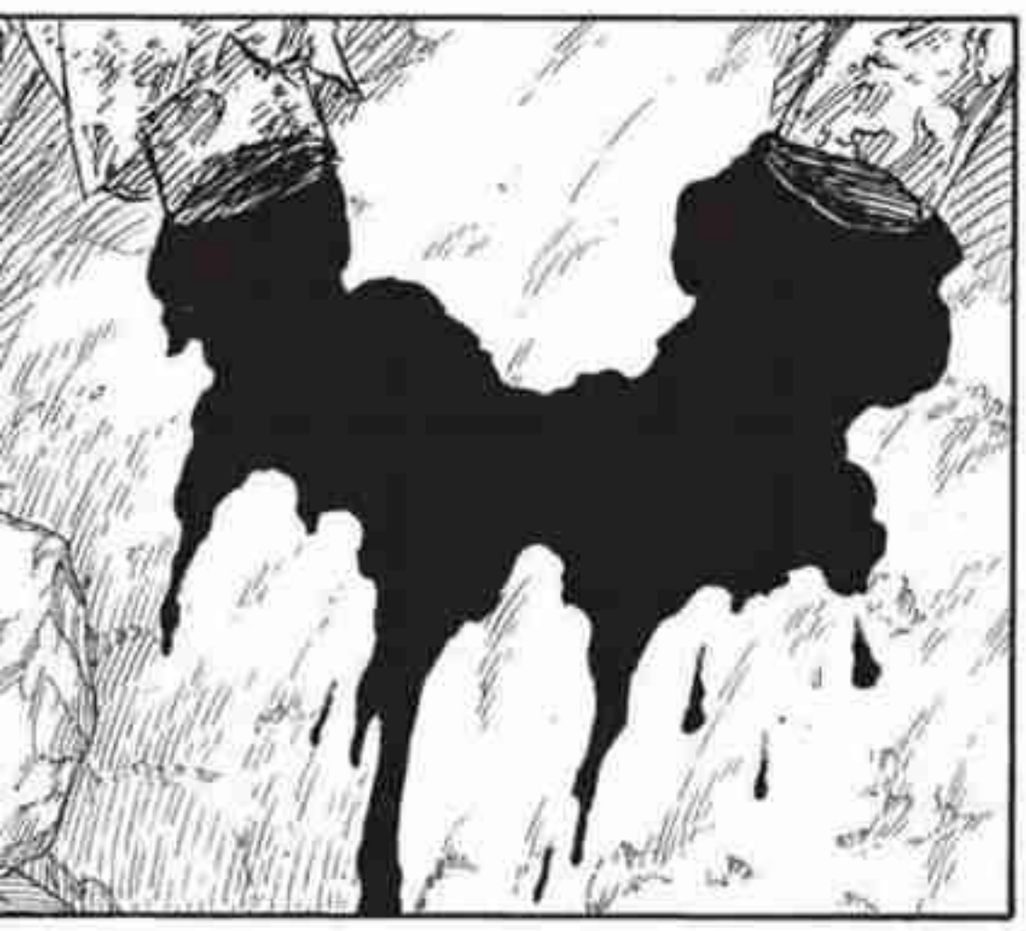
THE ABOVE IS A CUTOUT. THERE IS A COLOR VERSION OF THIS NARUTO CUTOUT ON THE FOLLOWING WEB PAGE, SO PLEASE CHECK IT OUT!

CUTOUT ARTIST ATSUHIRO HTTP://KIRIEATSU.BLOG.FC2.COM/


ZSH

!

OF COURSE THEY'D BE HERE...
THERE THEY ARE!!



...

!
TMP
SAKURA!

ZIZZZ

ZIZZZ

...

I NEED TO FOCUS.
HUSH FOR NOW...

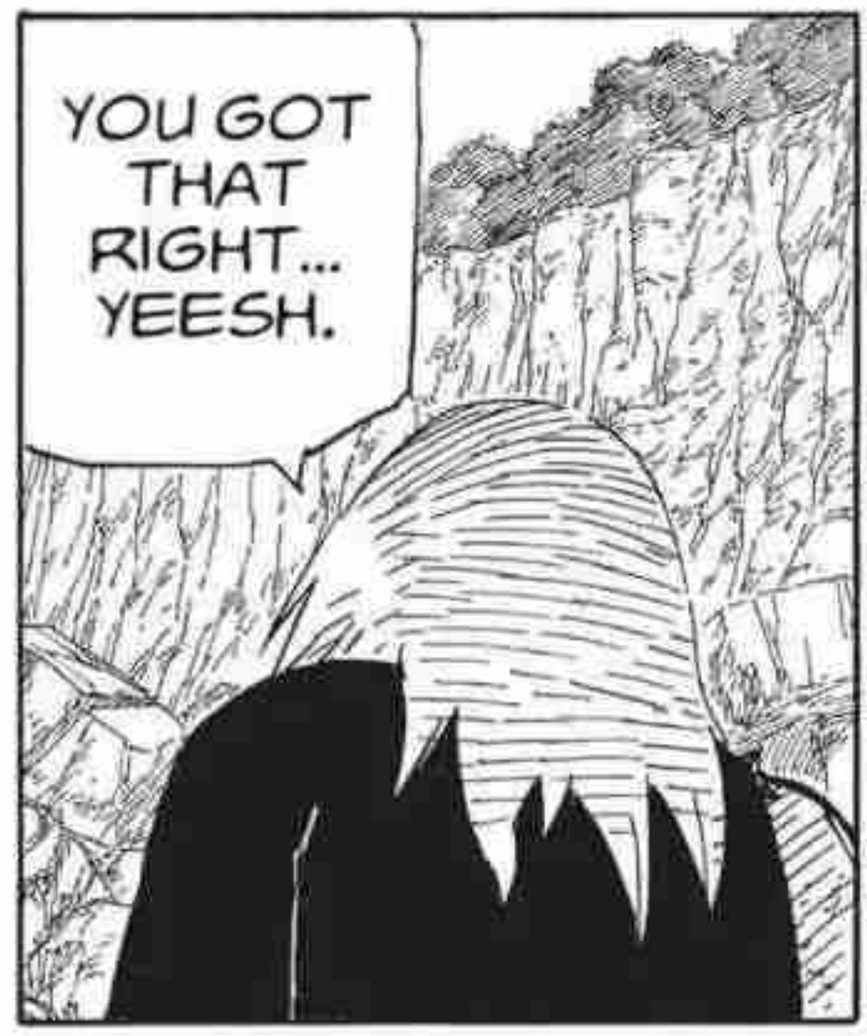
SAKURA... I...
...

THANKS, SAKURA!

SORRY?
FOR WHAT?

EVERY-THING UP UNTIL NOW.

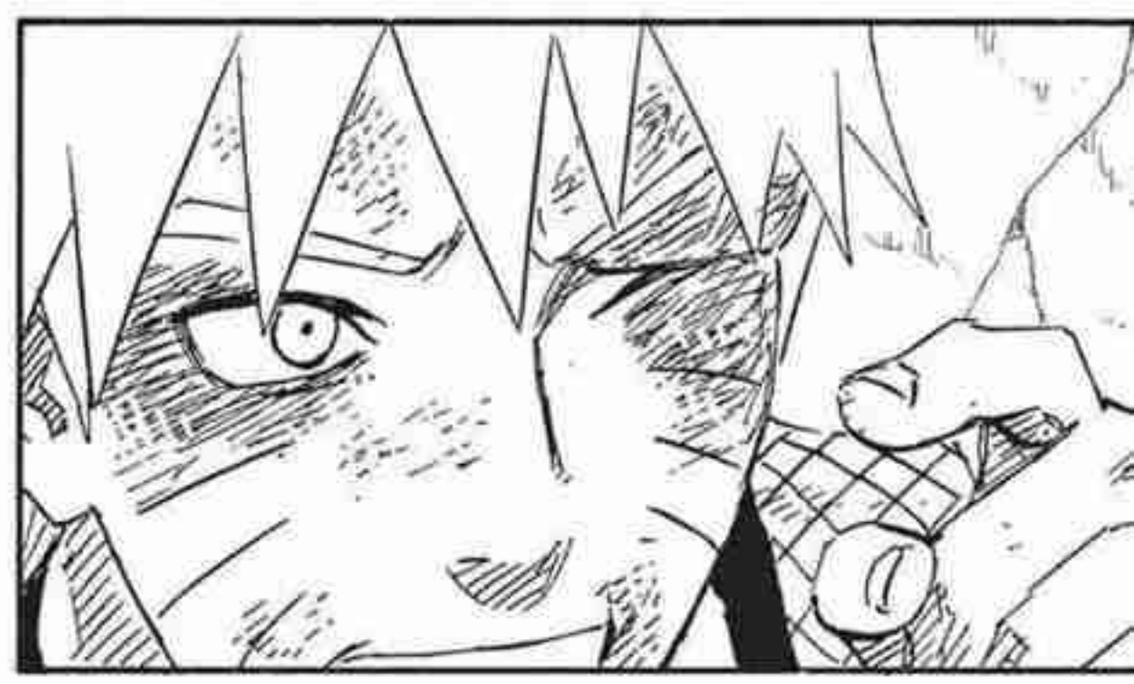
SORRY...

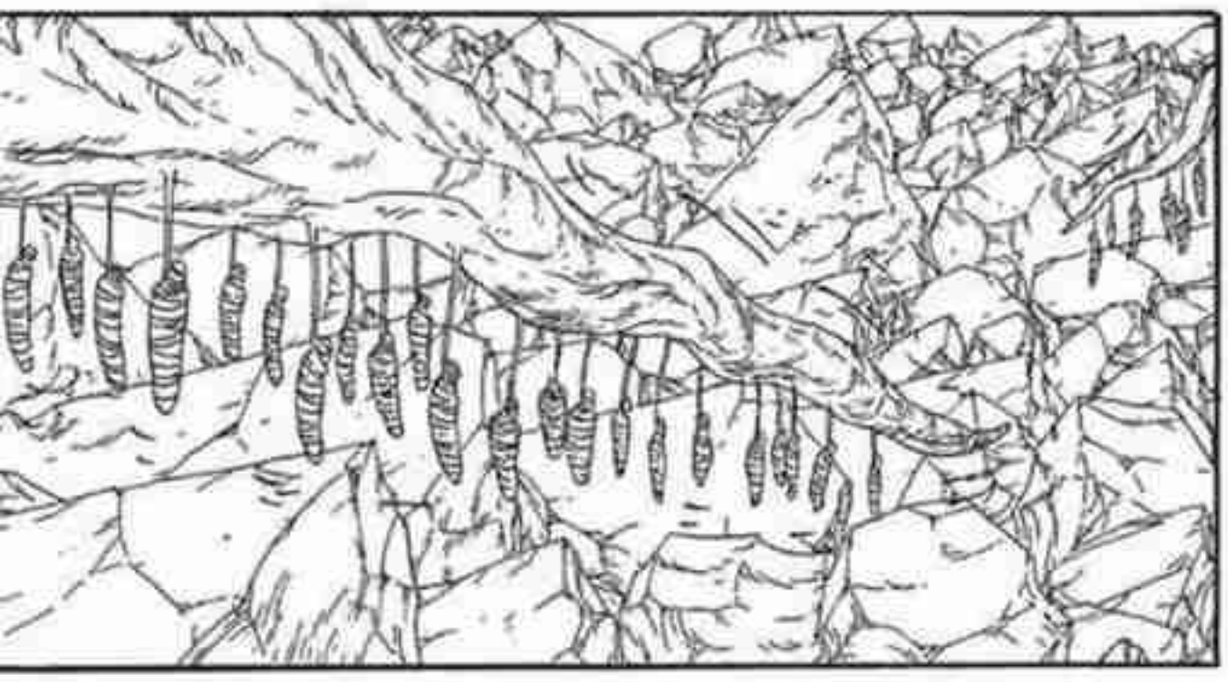

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT... YEESH.

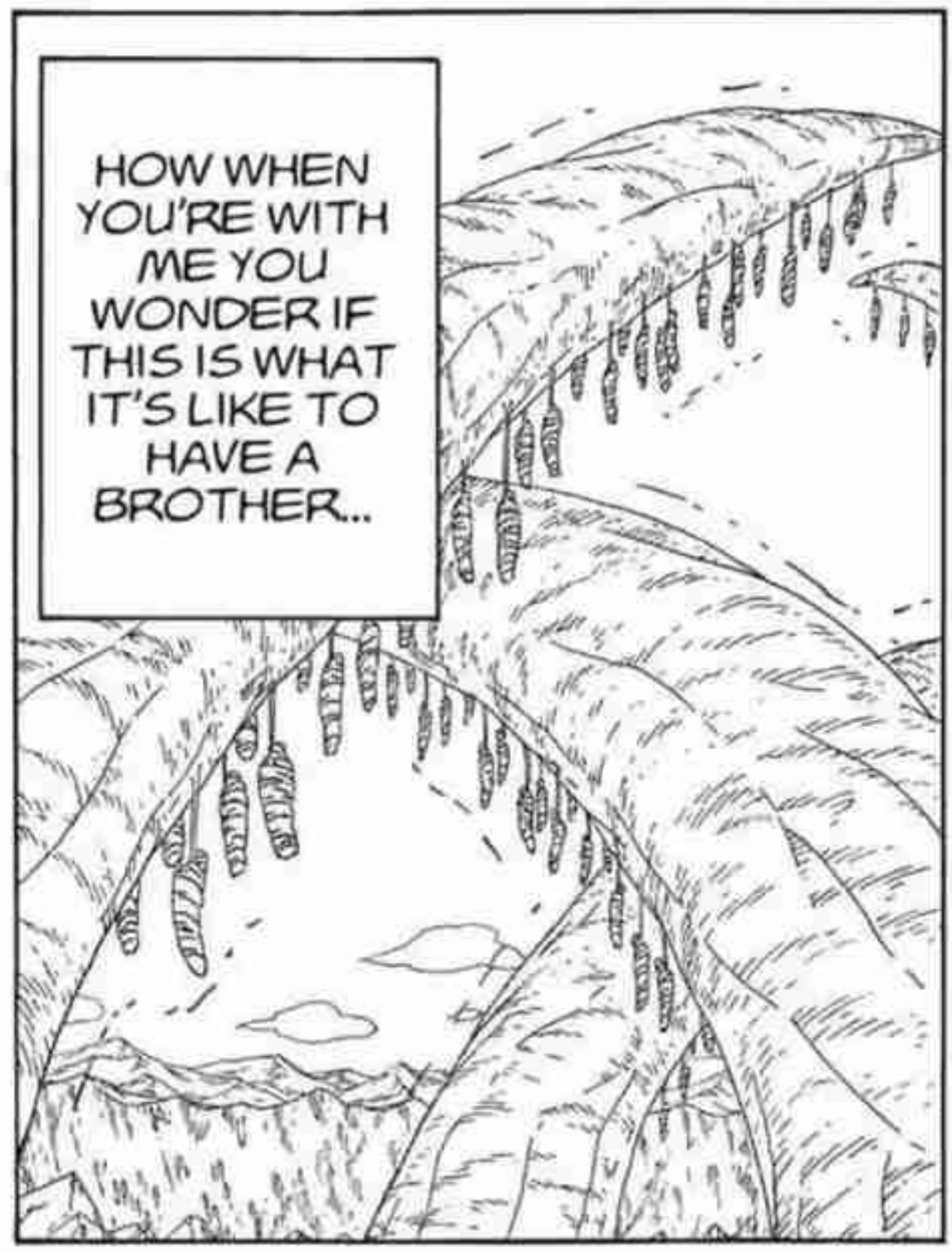
IT'S ABOUT FREAKIN' TIME...
...YOU IDIOT!

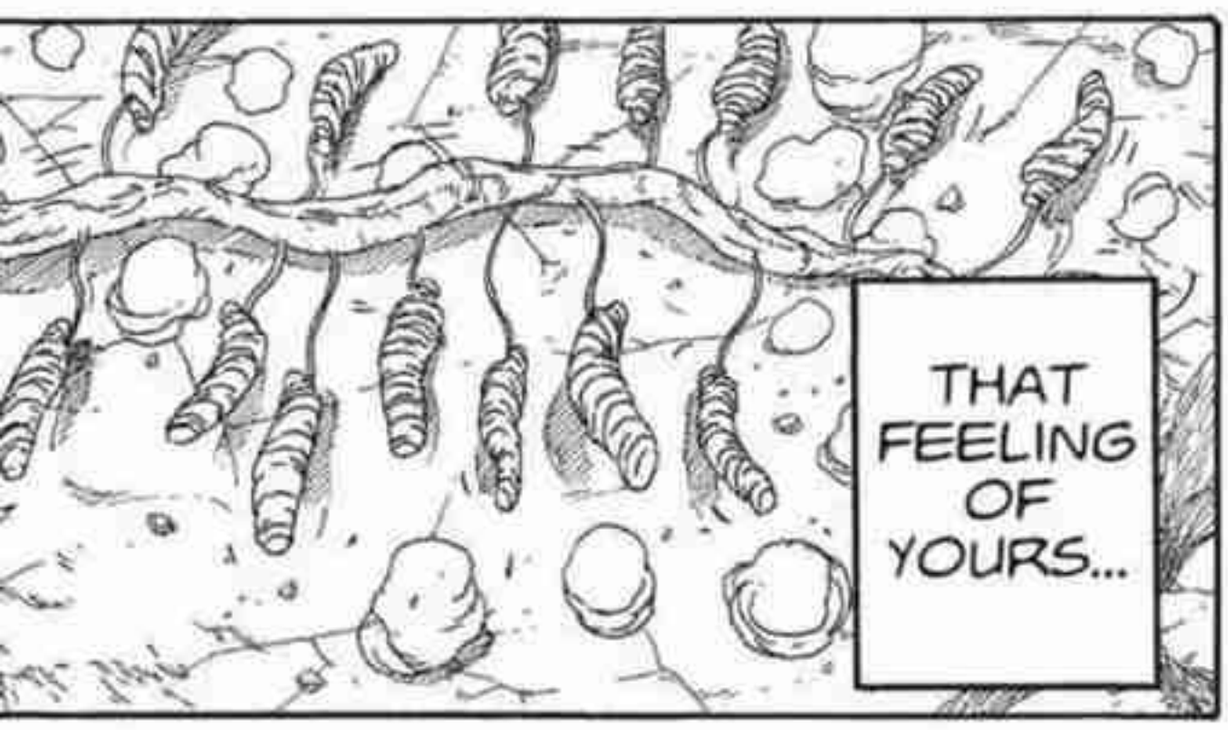
...TO THE WAY IT WAS.
TUG
IT'S FINALLY BACK...

AT THIS TIME I RECALLED THOSE WORDS YOU SAID HERE ONCE BEFORE.
NARUTO ...



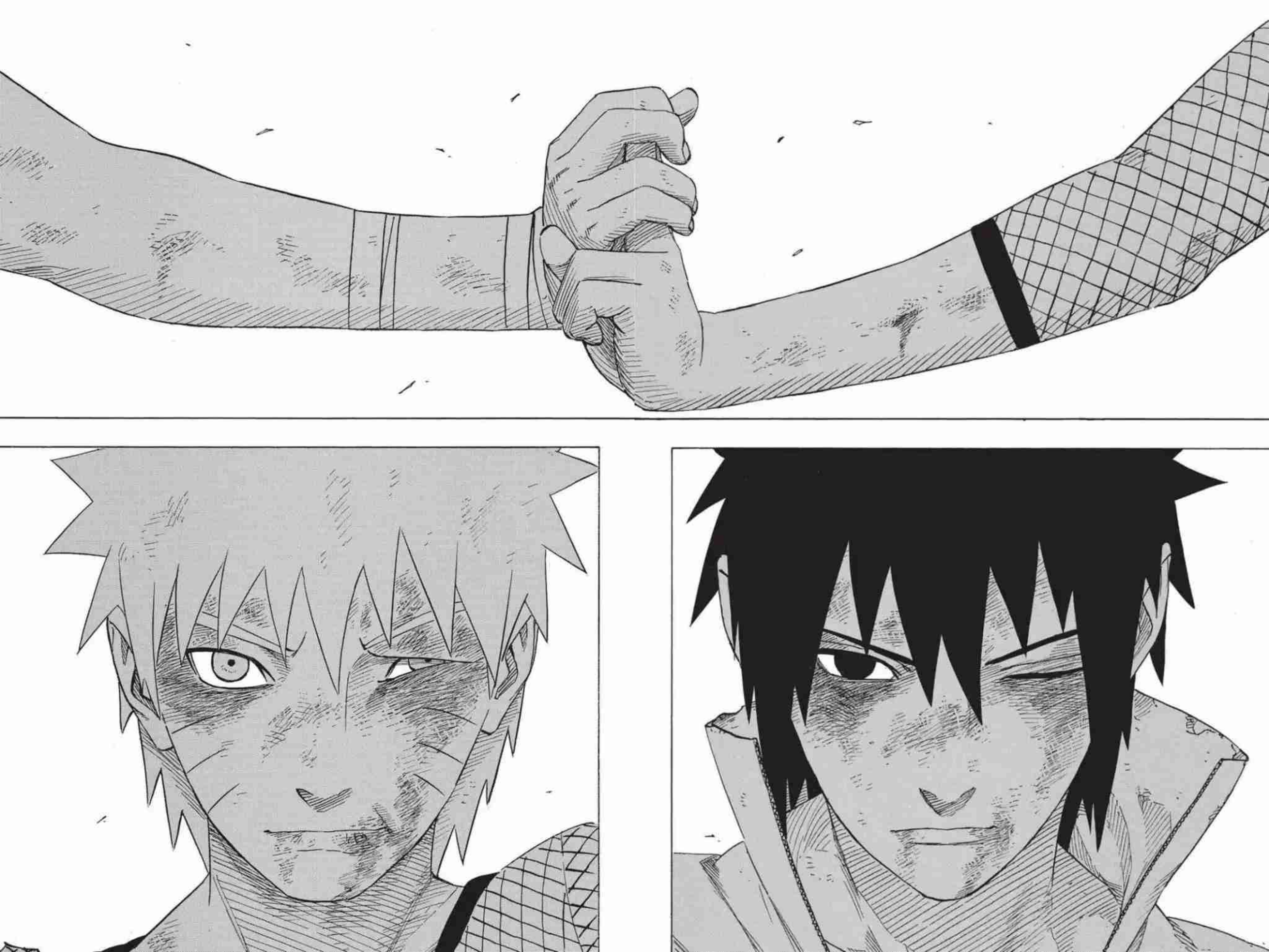



HOW WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME YOU WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE A BROTHER...


THAT FEELING OF YOURS...

...I THINK I FINALLY GET WHAT YOU MEANT.

?!
UGH!
FWMP

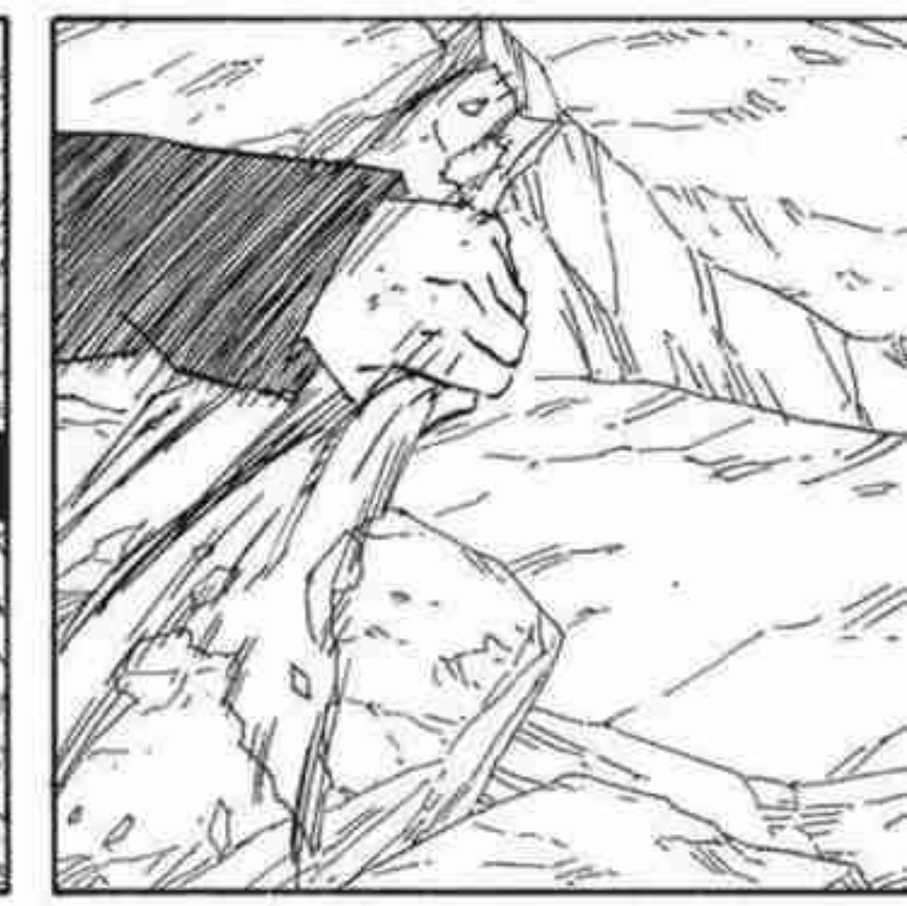


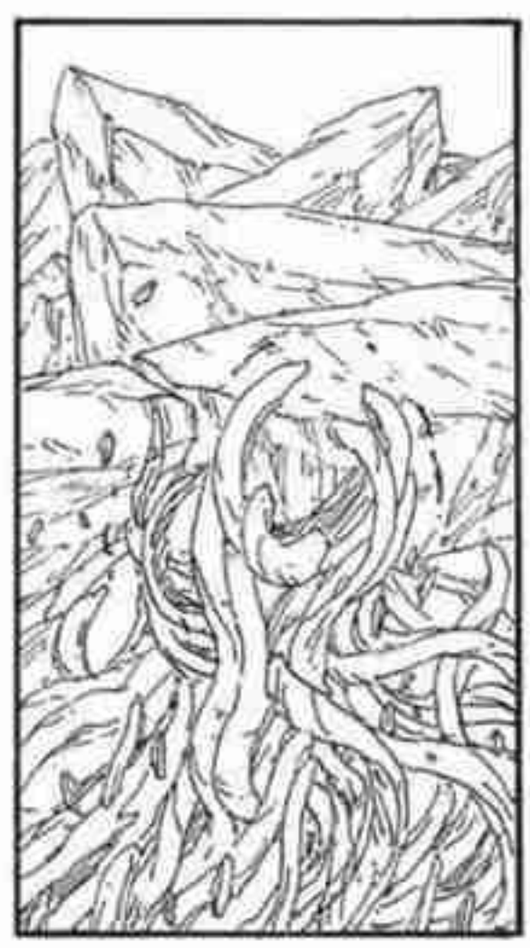
AS I TRAVEL FAR AND WIDE ACROSS THE WORLD...

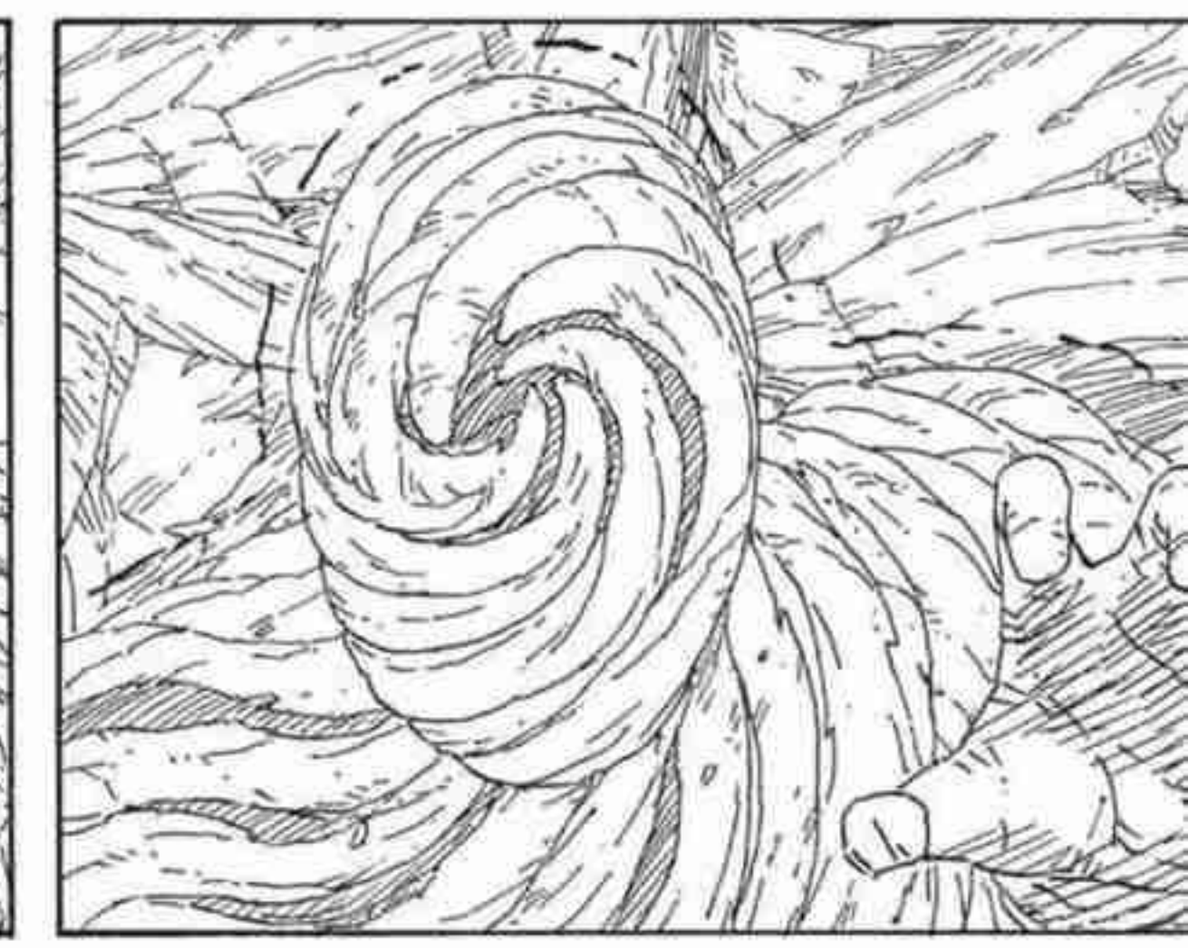
...I OFTEN REFLECT BACK ON THOSE DAYS.

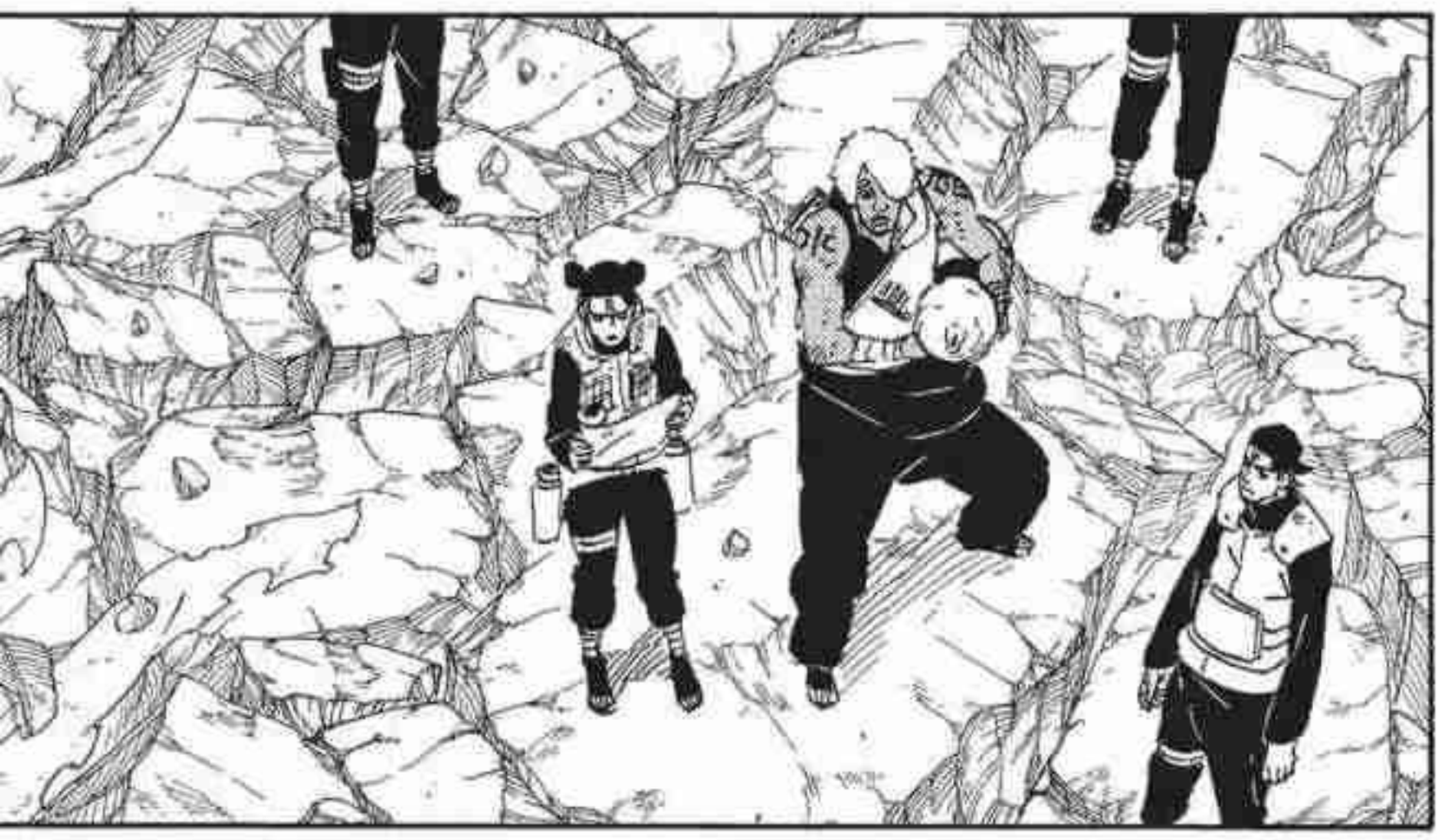
...STARVED FOR LOVE AND FOSTERING HATE.

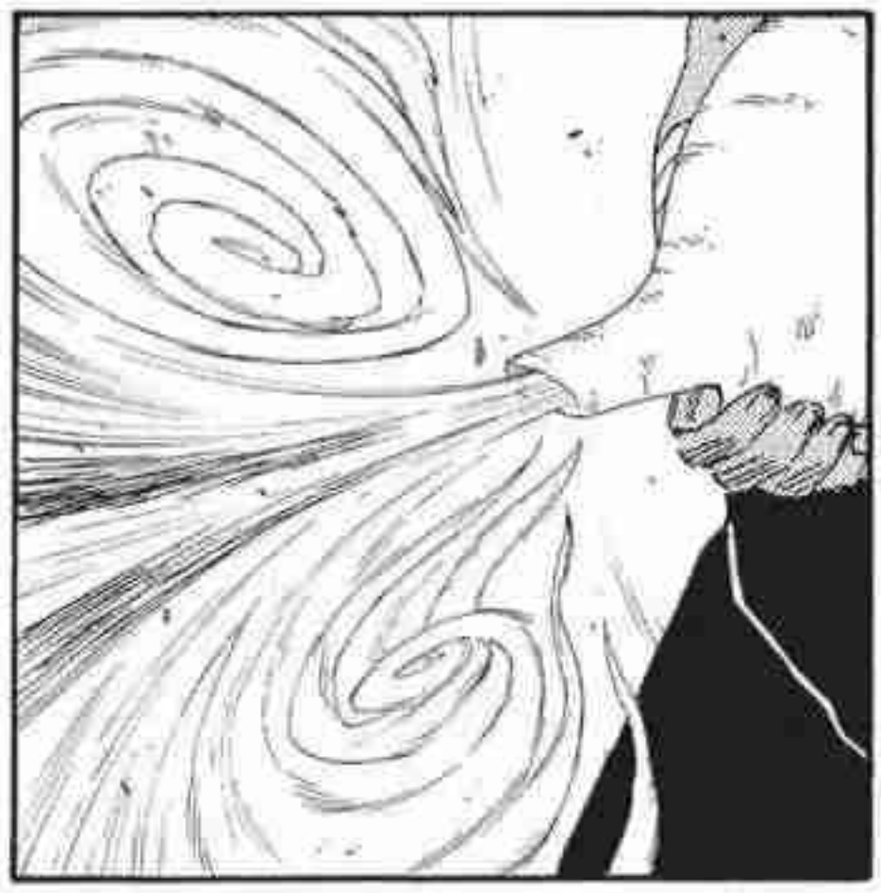
WE STARTED OUT AS LONELY BRATS...

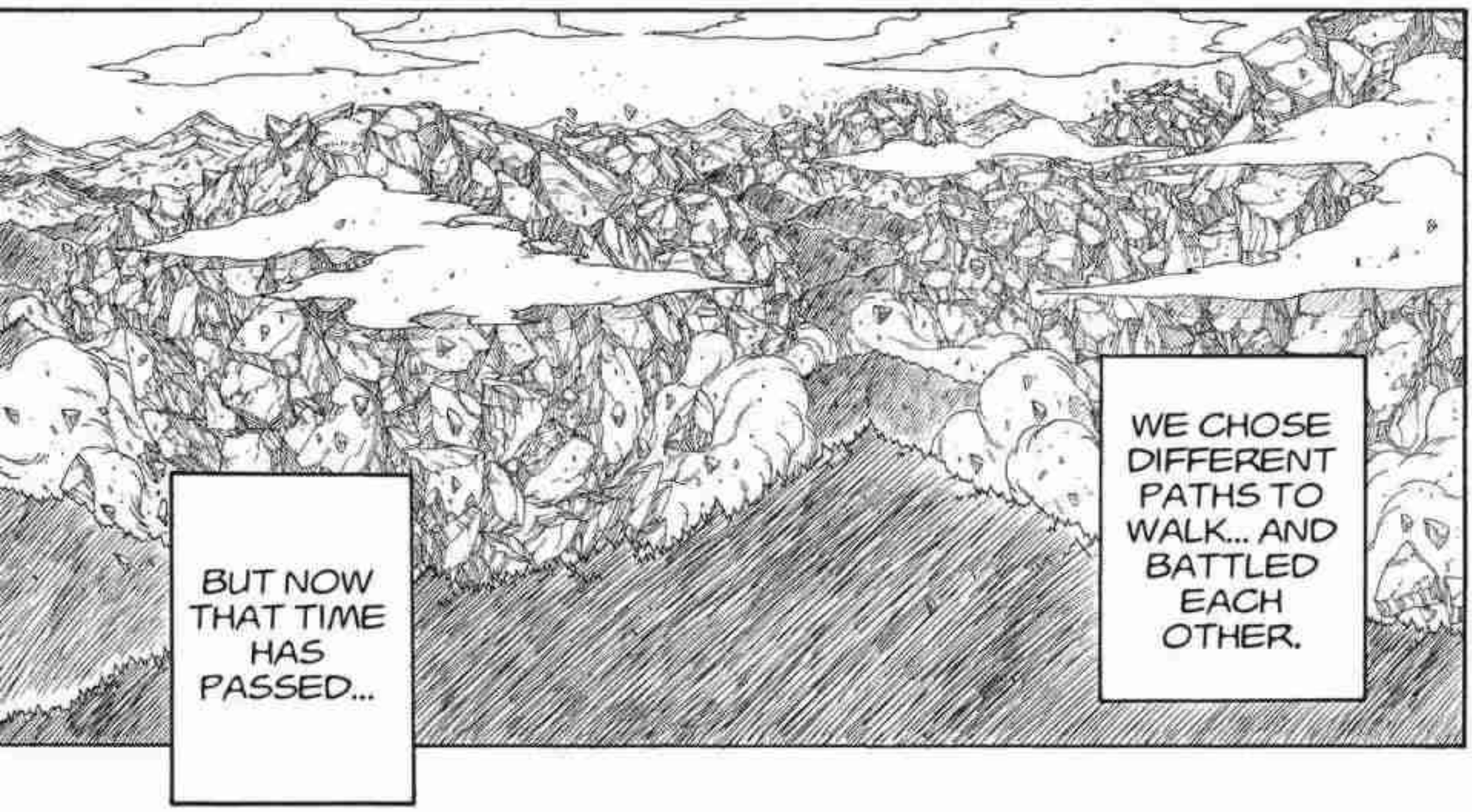








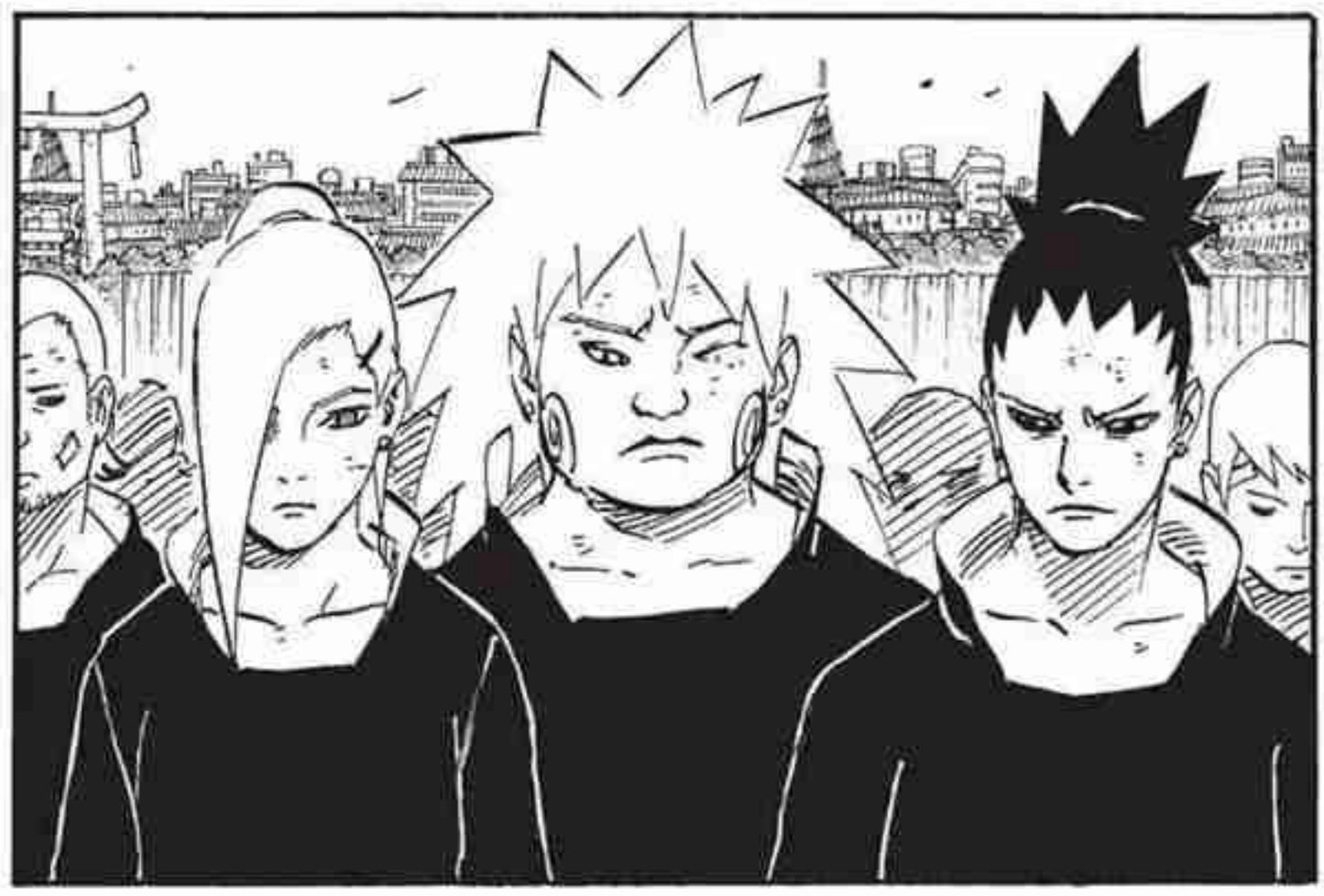



BUT NOW THAT TIME HAS PASSED...
WE CHOSE DIFFERENT PATHS TO WALK... AND BATTLED EACH OTHER.

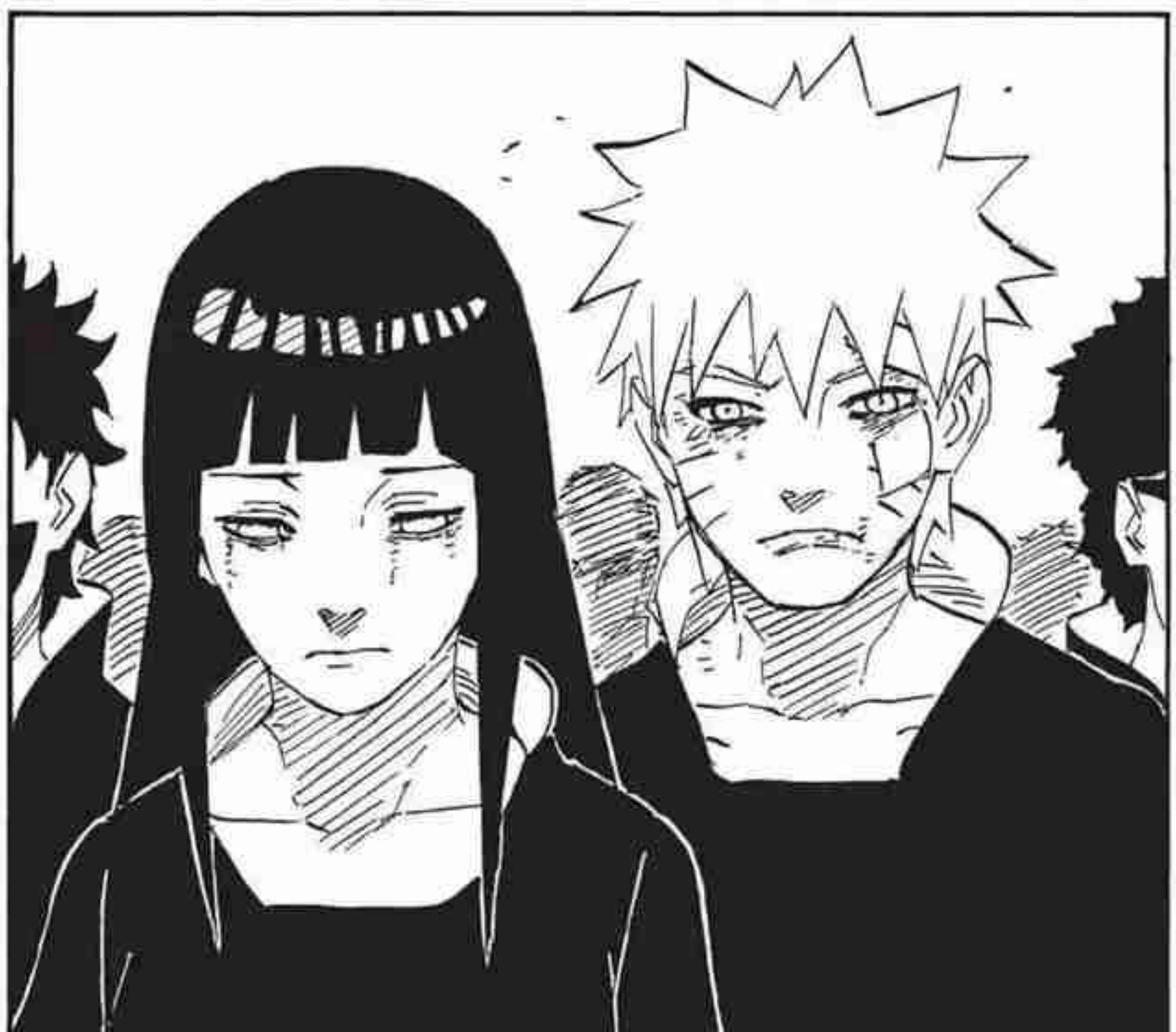
IT'S JUST LIKE...

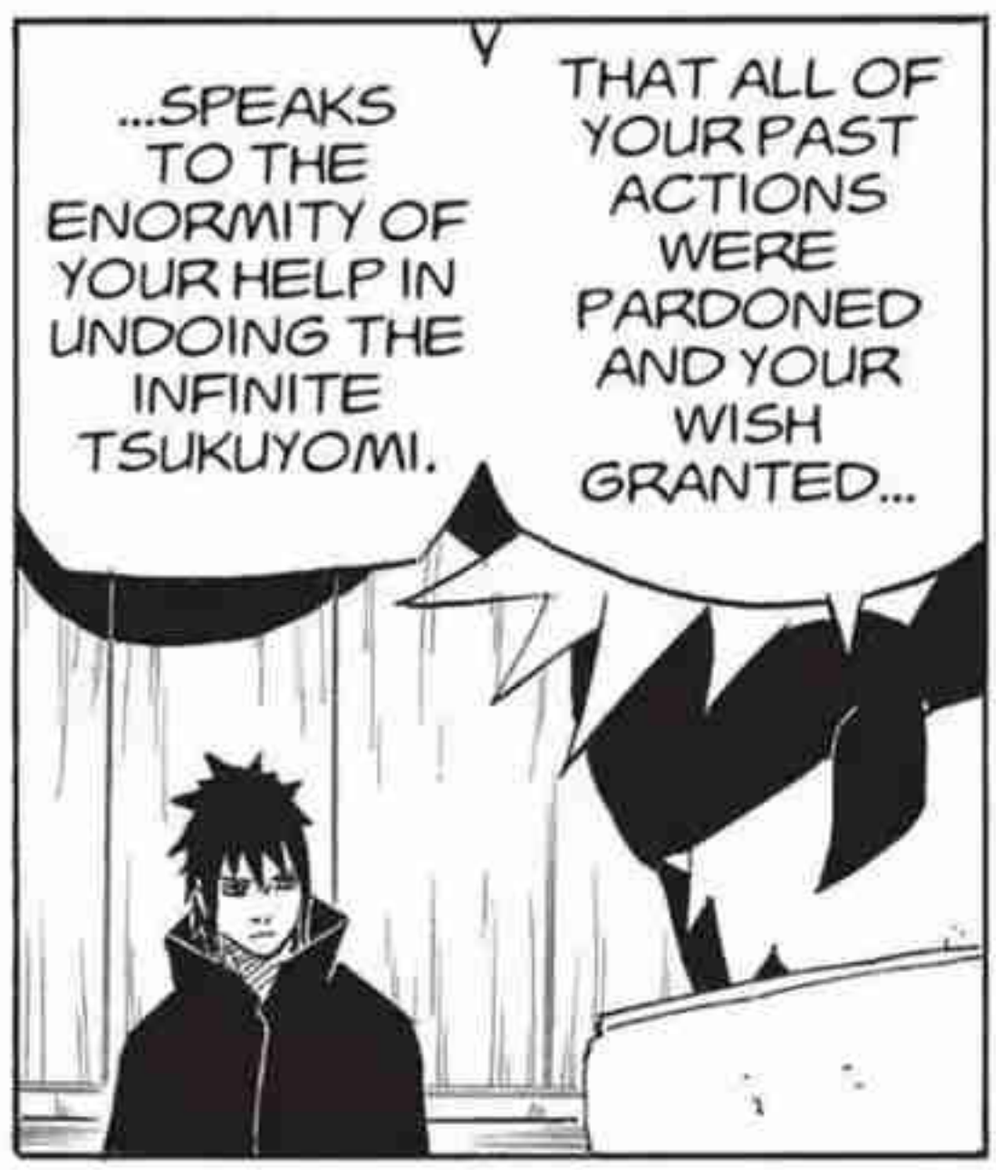
...HOW I CAME TO FEEL FATHER, MOTHER, AND MY BROTHER ITACHI'S PAIN AND EMOTIONS...

I'LL NOW START KNOWING ***YOUR*** PAIN AND FEELINGS TOO, NARUTO.

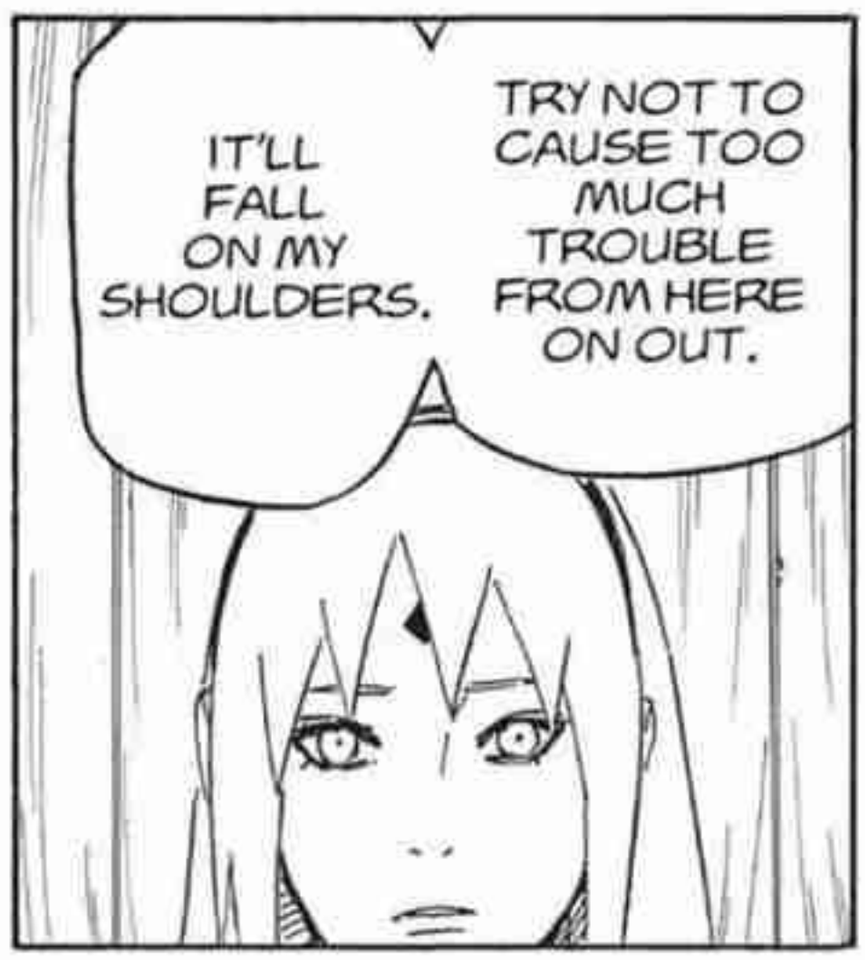


*GRAVE: HYUGA NEJI




...SPEAKS TO THE ENORMITY OF YOUR HELP IN UNDOING THE INFINITE TSUKUYOMI.
THAT ALL OF YOUR PAST ACTIONS WERE PARDONED AND YOUR WISH GRANTED...

...SOMEONE LIKE YOU WOULD NORMALLY BE IMPRISONED.
WELL, TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST...


IT'LL FALL ON MY SHOULDERS.
TRY NOT TO CAUSE TOO MUCH TROUBLE FROM HERE ON OUT.

...AND THE WISHES OF NARUTO, THE KEY FIGURE IN ENDING THE WAR, HELPED.
DON'T FORGET THAT.
BUT ALSO, MY BECOMING SIXTH HOKAGE...

I WANT TO KNOW HOW THE SHINOBI WORLD...

...HOW **THIS** WORLD, LOOKS TO THE CURRENT ME.

THE ARTIFICIAL HAND LADY TSUNADE IS CRAFTING FROM LORD HASHI-RAMA'S CELLS WILL BE READY SOON.

...

YOU REALLY INSIST ON LEAVING?

YEAH... SORRY ABOUT THAT.

...I SAID I WANTED TO COME WITH YOU?

...

W-WHAT IF...

THINGS THAT I CAN ONLY PERCEIVE IN MY CURRENT STATE.

I FEEL LIKE I'LL NOW BE ABLE TO SEE THE THINGS I'VE OVERLOOKED.

AND... THERE'S A MATTER THAT'S BEEN WEIGHING ON ME.

!

...

NOTHING TO DO WITH... HUH...

SL UMP

AND YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH MY CRIMES.

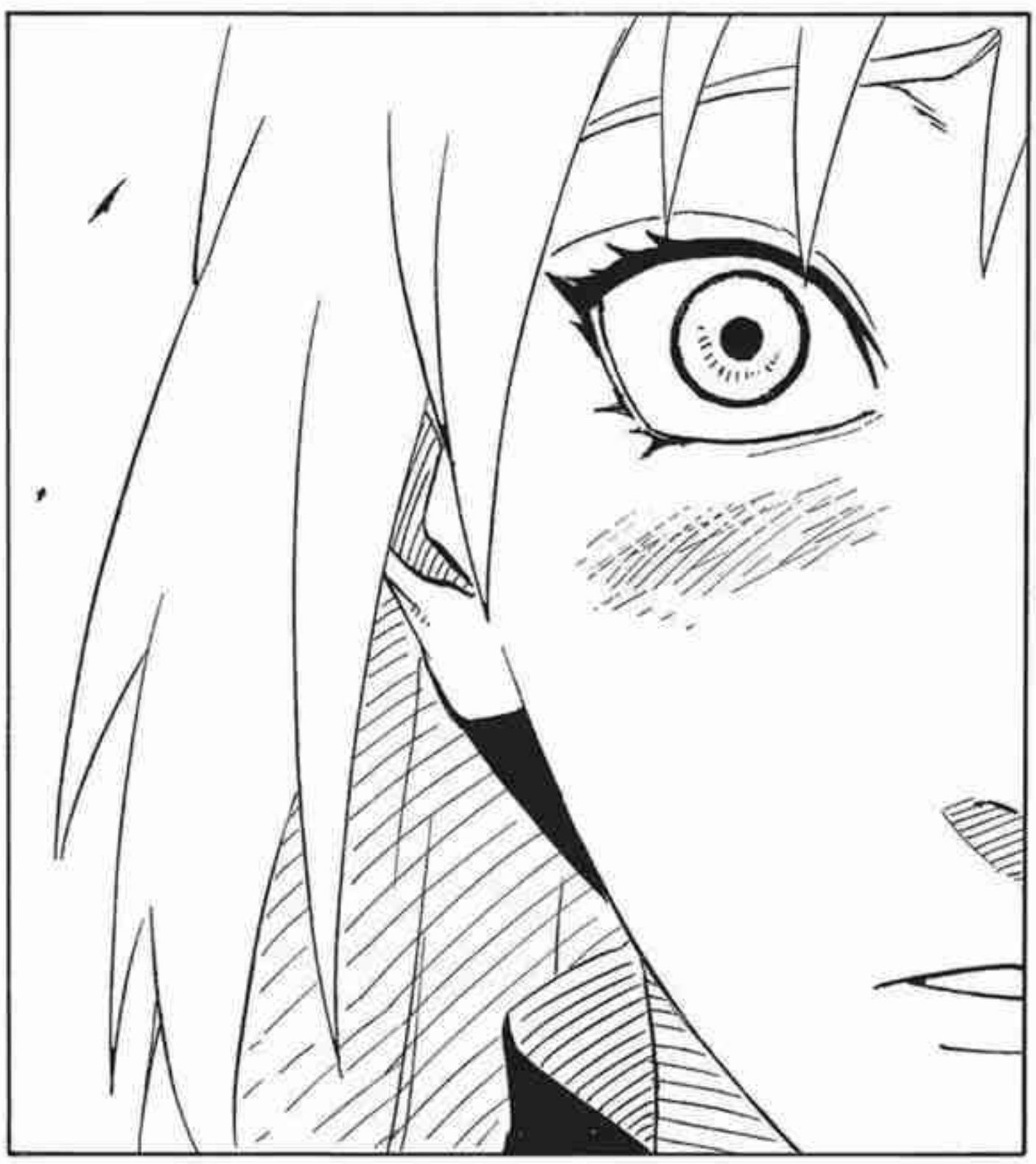
IT'S A JOURNEY OF ATONEMENT TOO.

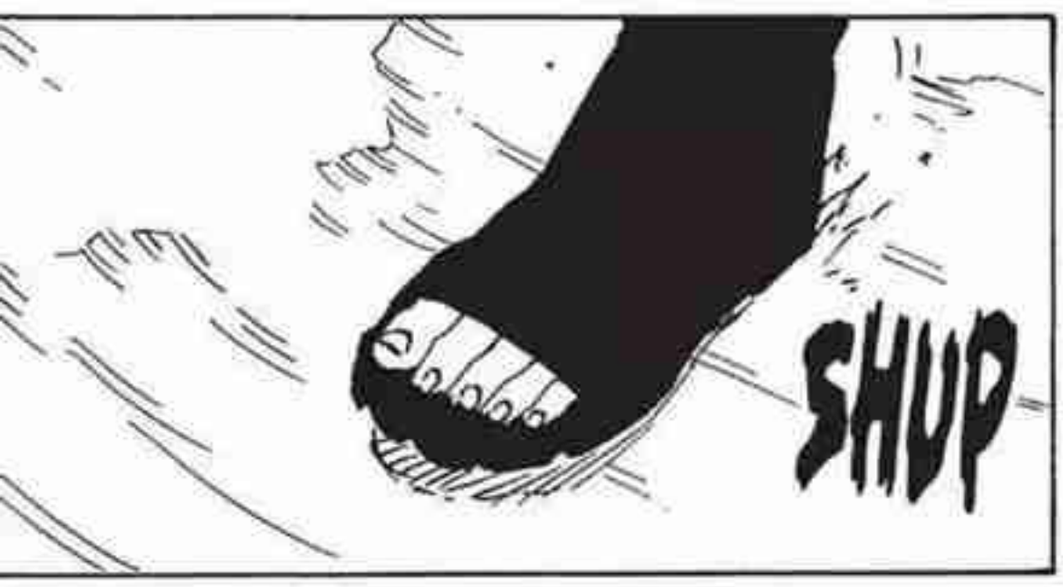
...

GLANCE...

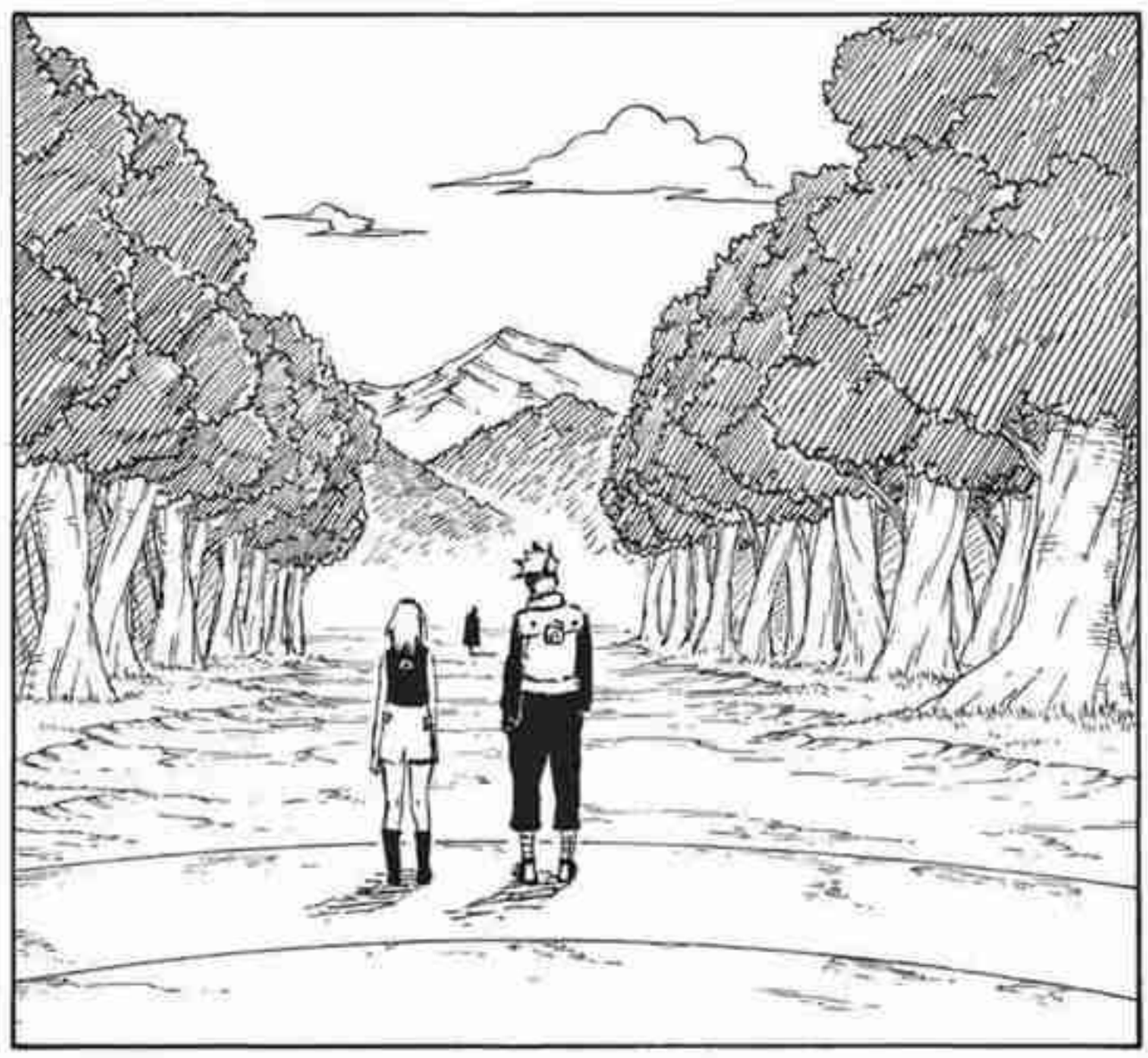
MAYBE NEXT TIME.

TAP




SHUP

!



HERE!
REACH!!!

...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE COMING TO SEE ME OFF...

AND I WAS SAVED THANKS TO YOU.
YOU STOPPED ME, AS A FRIEND...
...EVEN AT THE COST OF YOUR HAND.

YOU STILL HAD THIS THING...?
...

!

...AND NOW WE'RE ABLE TO ***CLAIM*** EACH OTHER'S PAIN.

WE WERE INSIGNI-FICANT LITTLE THINGS WHO USED TO CLASH...

I NEVER ASSUMED IT WOULD BE SIMPLE, JUST LIKE IT WASN'T WITH THE TWO OF US.

BUT IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE AS EASILY AS YOU WERE ABLE TO.

ESPECIALLY WITH SOMETHING SO BIG.

SHF

...I BELIEVE THIS CONCEPT CAN BE APPLIED TO EVEN BIGGER THINGS THAN JUST US.

AND AFTER SEEING THE WORLD VIA MY TRAVELS ...

SURE. I'LL HANG ON TO IT...

...UNTIL WE HAVE OUR ***REAL*** FIGHT.

I'M GIVING THIS BACK TO YOU.

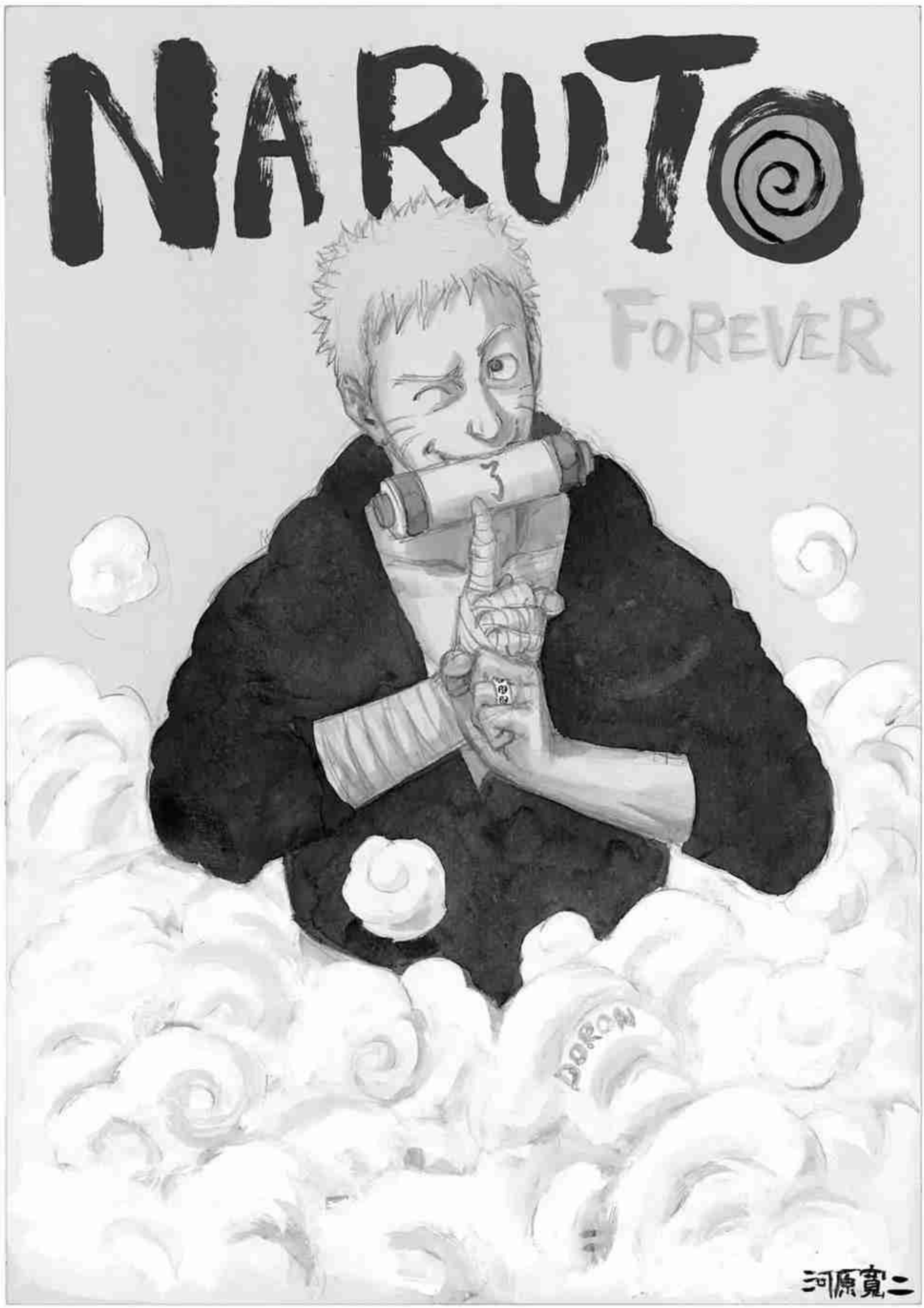
AND TO ***THOSE*** WHOM THAT TASK FALLS ON... PERHAPS THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS...

TO KEEP ***ENDURING*** UNTIL IT COMES TO BE, NO MATTER WHAT.

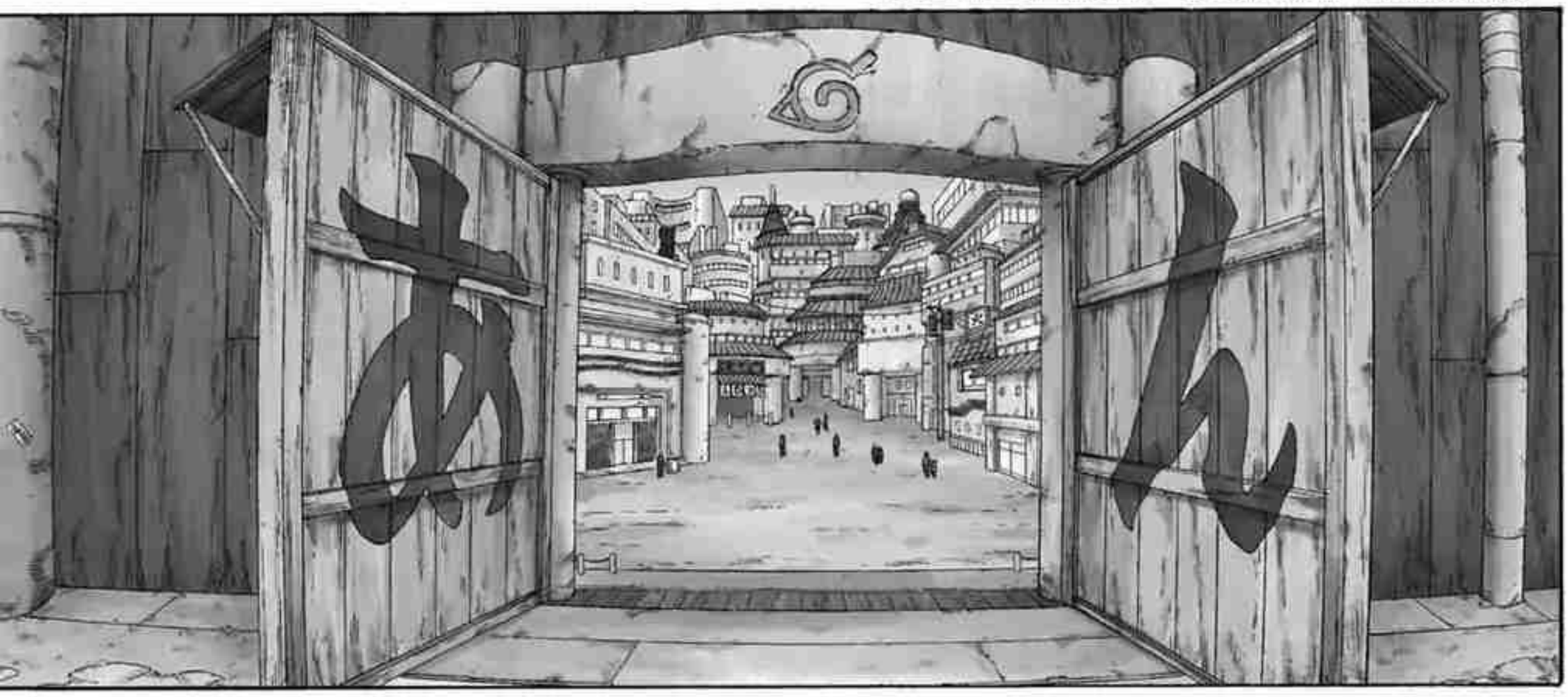
IT'S KIND OF LIKE A PRAYER.

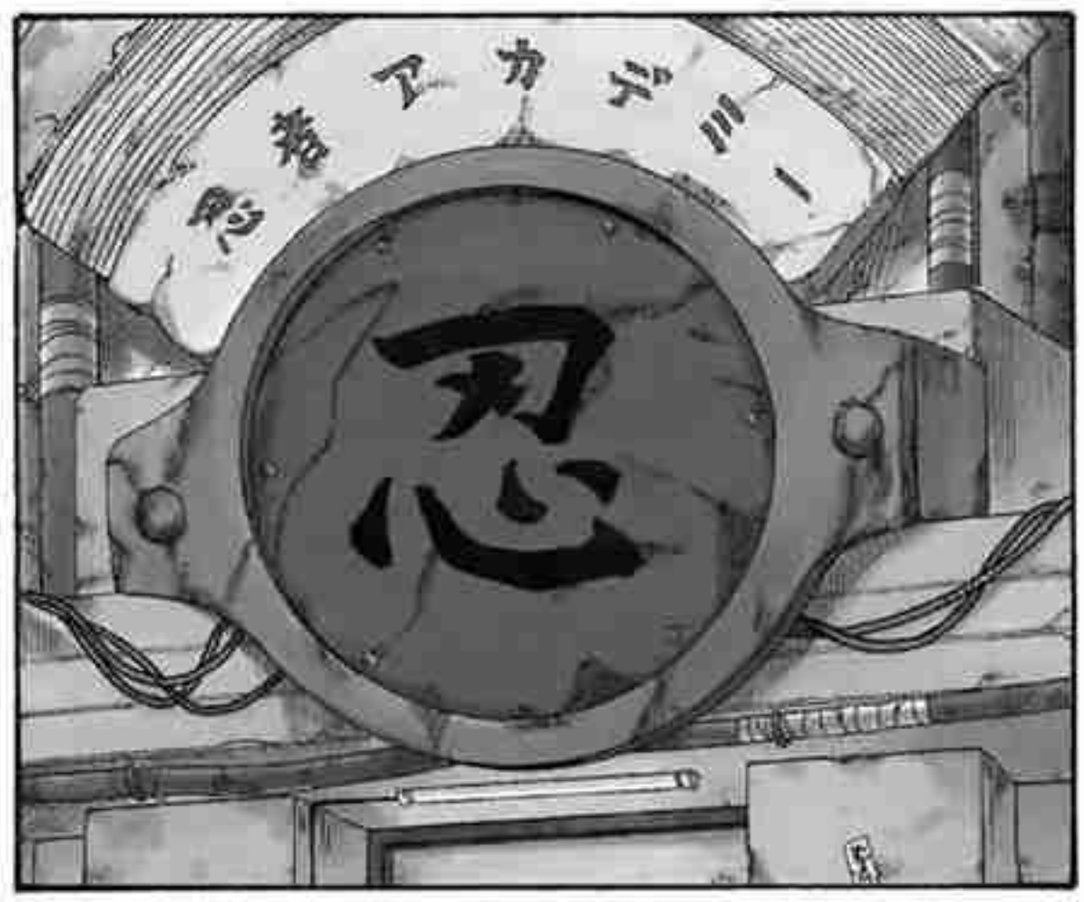
...TO BE A NINJA.

END OF SERIES COMMEMORATION ILLUSTRATION (10) KANJI KAWAHARA



Number 700: Uzumaki Naruto!!





*SIGN: NINJA ACADEMY

ANYONE WANNA JOIN ME?
I'LL SHOW YA AN INCREDIBLE PRANK TODAY!

TUG
...

TO SLIP PAST ALL THAT AND PULL OFF THE PRANK, THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SHINOBI!
THAT'S EVEN MORE REASON!
COME ON, SHIKADAI!

OUR VILLAGE IS HOSTING THE GOKAGE COUNCIL TODAY.
ARE YOU STUPID, BORUTO?
SECURITY'S TIGHT ALL OVER.

OH! GOTTA PASS ON THAT.

I HAVE PLANS WITH MASTER ANKO TODAY...

NO WAY, HE CAN'T GO!

MA SAID WE WERE TO DO INO-SHIKA-CHO TRAINING AFTER SCHOOL TODAY.

LATER!

SO I'M PLUMP. SUE ME.

HOLD UP, CHUBS!

SO YOU COME TOO, INOJIN!

THERE GOES THE LESSON!

OH! MASTER ANKO! ♡

FSH...

CHO-CHO! WE'LL GO TO THE DANGO SWEETS SHOP FIRST, THEN GET SOME SYRUP-COVERED RED BEAN JAM, OKAY? ♡

*GRAVE: HYUGA NEJI

KLAK

日向ネジ

SIGH...

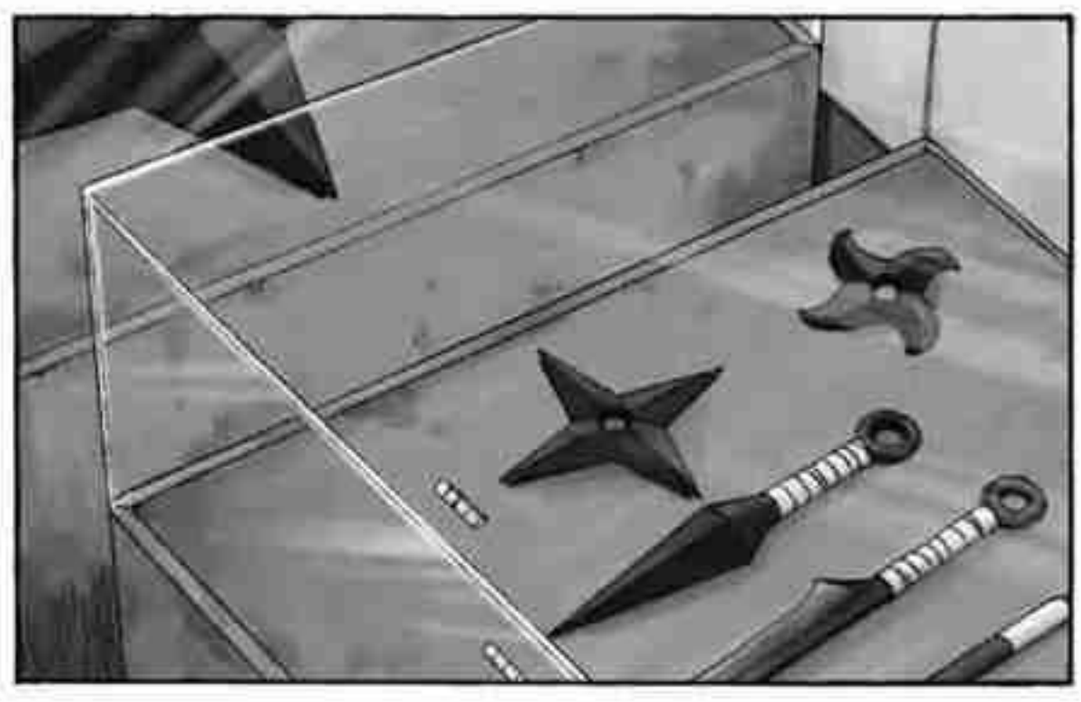
PRANKS AND TRAINING ARE BOTH A PAIN IN THE BUTT...

NEXT TIME, JUST ME AND BIG BRO CAN COME.
HEH HEH...

THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIVE!
SHUP

OF COURSE.
MAMA, DO YOU THINK UNCLE WILL BE PLEASED BY THEM?
THEY'RE SUNFLOWERS, JUST LIKE YOUR NAME, HIMAWARI.

YOUTH LIVES!!
YEAH !!



*SIGN: NOT FOR SALE

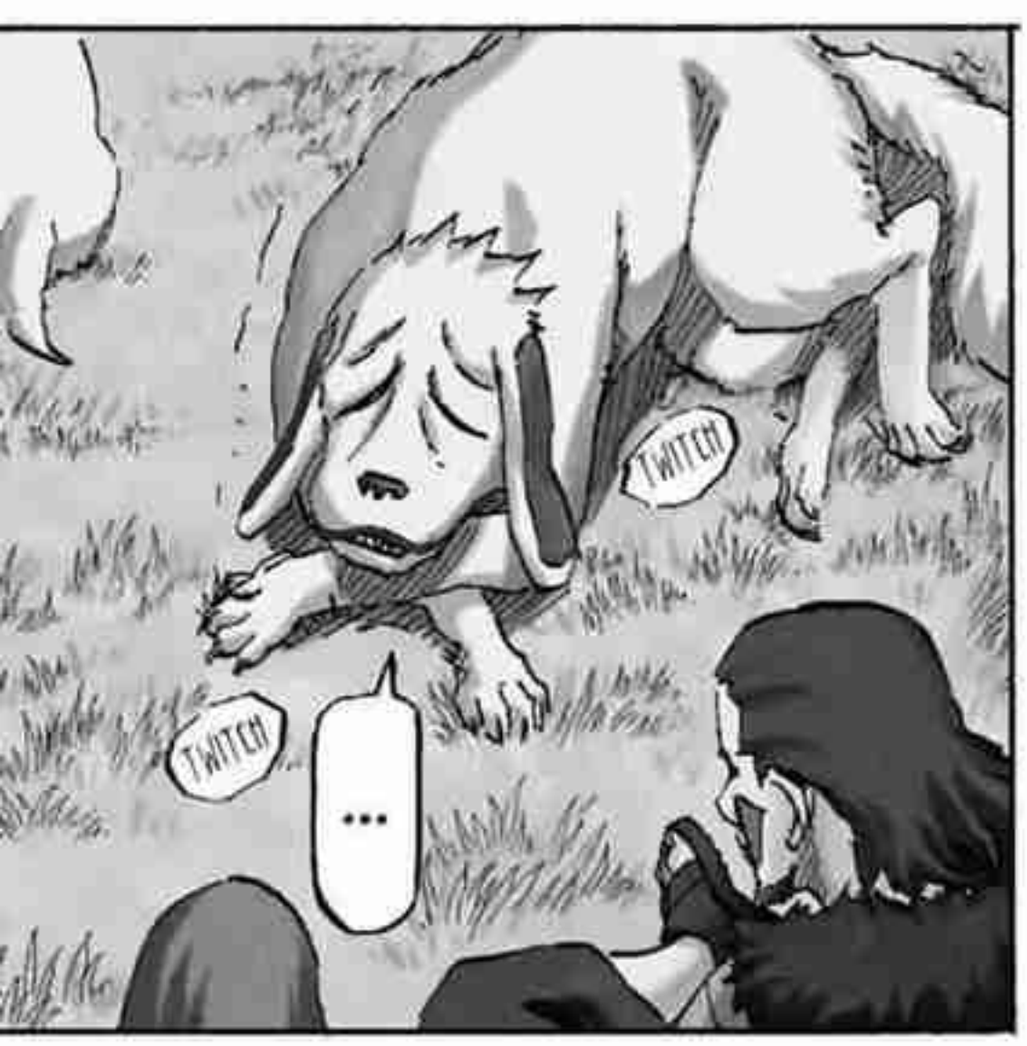
*SIGN: NINJA TOOLS TEN[3]

UNCLE GAARA... YOU STOPPED BY TO VISIT!

OH!

YOU'VE GROWN SOME, AGAIN.

WELCOME HOME...


TWITCH
TWITCH
...

...AND A WISE SHINOBI HIDES HIS FANGS!
A WISE HAWK HIDES ITS TALONS...
I TURNED DOWN BECOMING SEVENTH HOKAGE...
RIGHT, AKAMARU ?!

...
MM, INDEED...

...
TWITCH
LEER
TWITCH

THEY'RE LATE!!

IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN FULL SCALE...

NOW, NOW...

SHIKAMARU'S STUCK TO SEVENTH'S SIDE ALL DAY TODAY TOO, SO...

MM... BUT YOU SEE...

RIGHT, DEAR?

IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO TEACH THEM THE COMBINATION ATTACKS ANYWAY?

IT'S NOT LIKE WHEN WE WERE GROWING UP, AND MY GIRL ISN'T REALLY THE TYPE...

I CAN'T SHOW UP WITHOUT THE OTHER TWO IN TOW.

MOM'S TOTALLY FLIPPING OUT, JUST LIKE I FIGURED.

IF ONE WERE TO THINK SO LIGHTLY OF EVERYTHING LIKE YOU...

MIZ KARUI! ALLOW ME TO SAY ONE THING, HM!

THESE ARE SECRET MOVES PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION!

I'M HEADING OUT, FATHER.

NO... I'M TO ATTEND THE PREVIOUS HOKAGE, SO IT'S OKAY IF I'M LATE.
YOU'RE LATE.
!
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ON SEVENTH GUARD DETAIL TODAY?

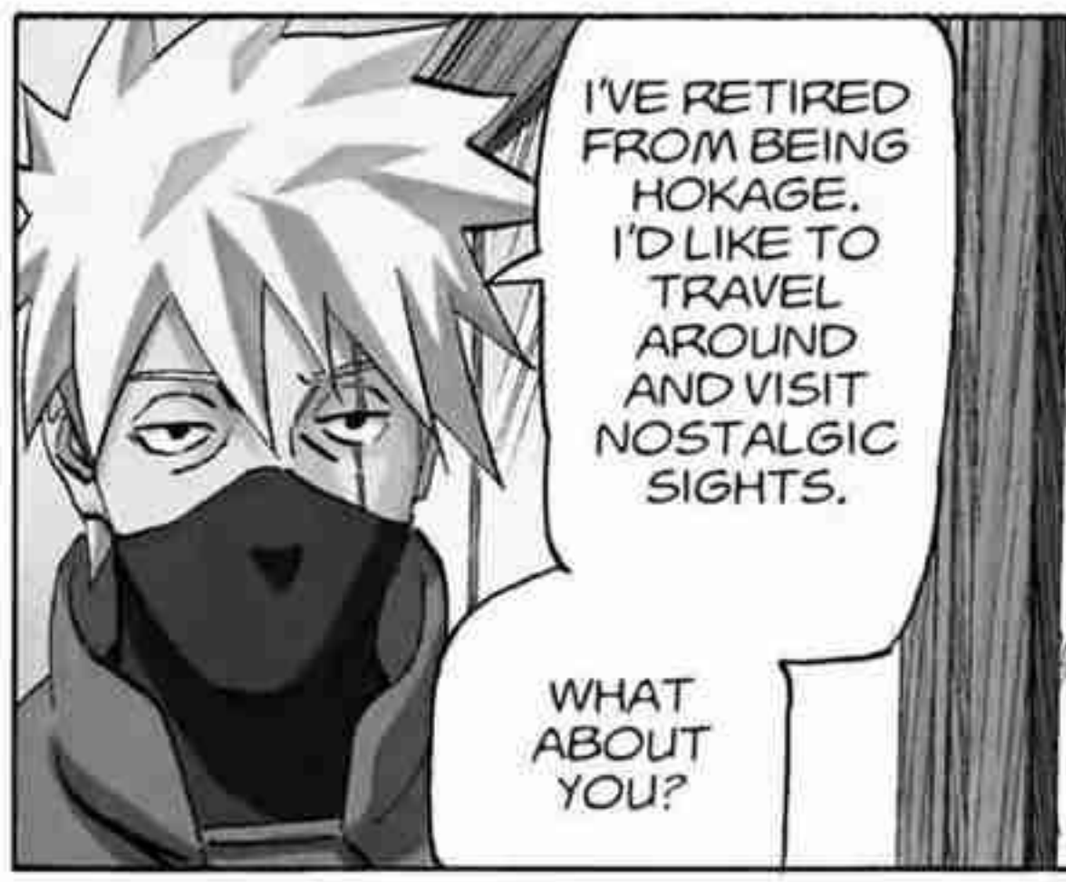
FYI, I'LL BE GONE FOR A FEW DAYS.
AND MASTER GUY!
FSH

KAKASHI ?

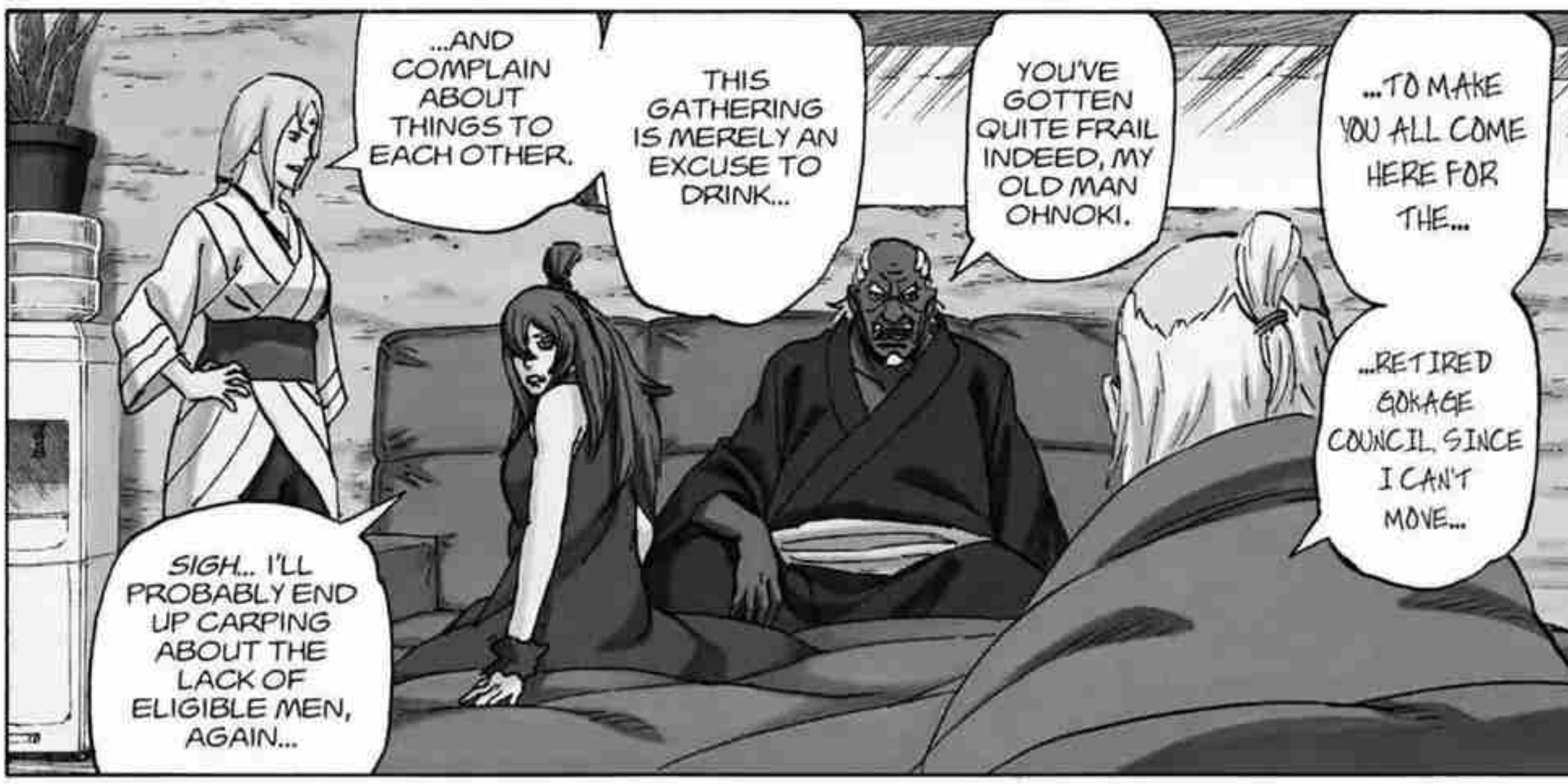
NAH... HE'S PROVEN HIMSELF A WORTHY SUCCESSOR ALREADY, SO...

AN OLD-TIMER SHOULDN'T RAIN ON HIS PARADE...

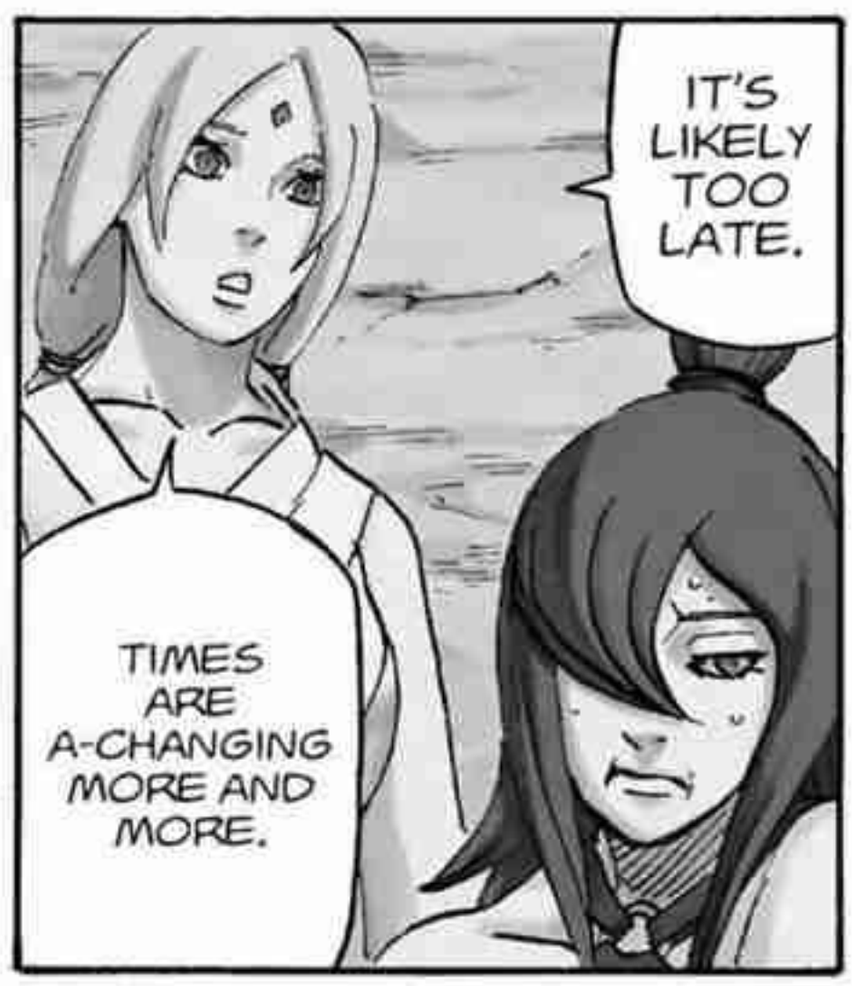
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AT HIS SIDE TODAY, KAKASHI?



*SIGN: EARTH



THD-
THD-


TIMES ARE A-CHANGING MORE AND MORE.
IT'S LIKELY TOO LATE.

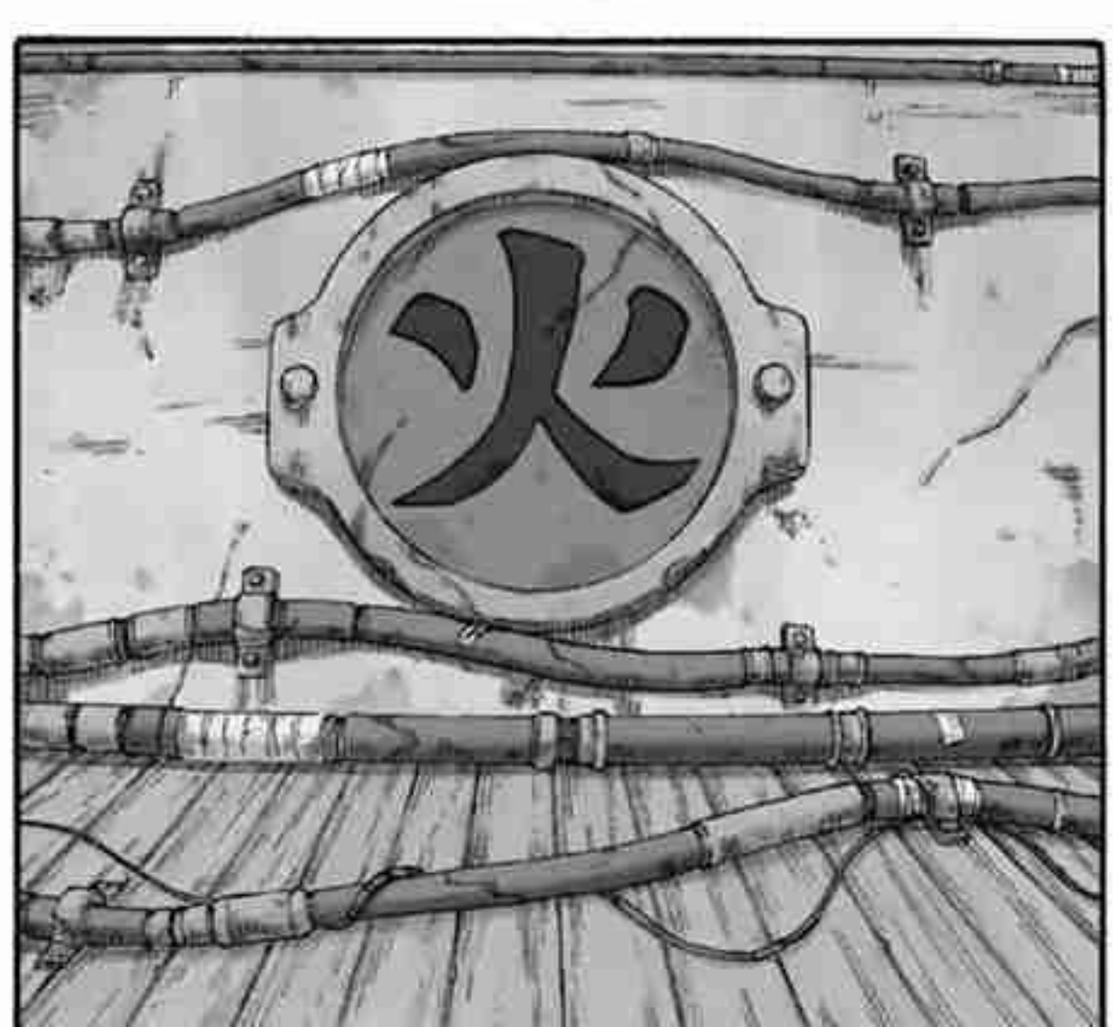
HO HO HO... NOT ANY AVAILABLE MEN, EVEN IN ALL OF KIRIGAKURE?!

I OUGHTA GO VISIT NARUTO ONCE IN A WHILE, GET OFF MY BUTT.
CUZ HERE, I JUST KEEP GETTING STUCK IN A RUT.
DON'T LUMP HIM WITH YOU, WHO'S ALWAYS GOOFING AROUND.
THAT BOY'S GOTTEN WHERE HE'S REAL BUSY THESE DAYS...

THD-THD-THD-THD-

*SIGN: FIRE

CLIK
CLIK


火

EVERYONE ELSE FROM THE OTHER VILLAGES HAS ARRIVED ALREADY.

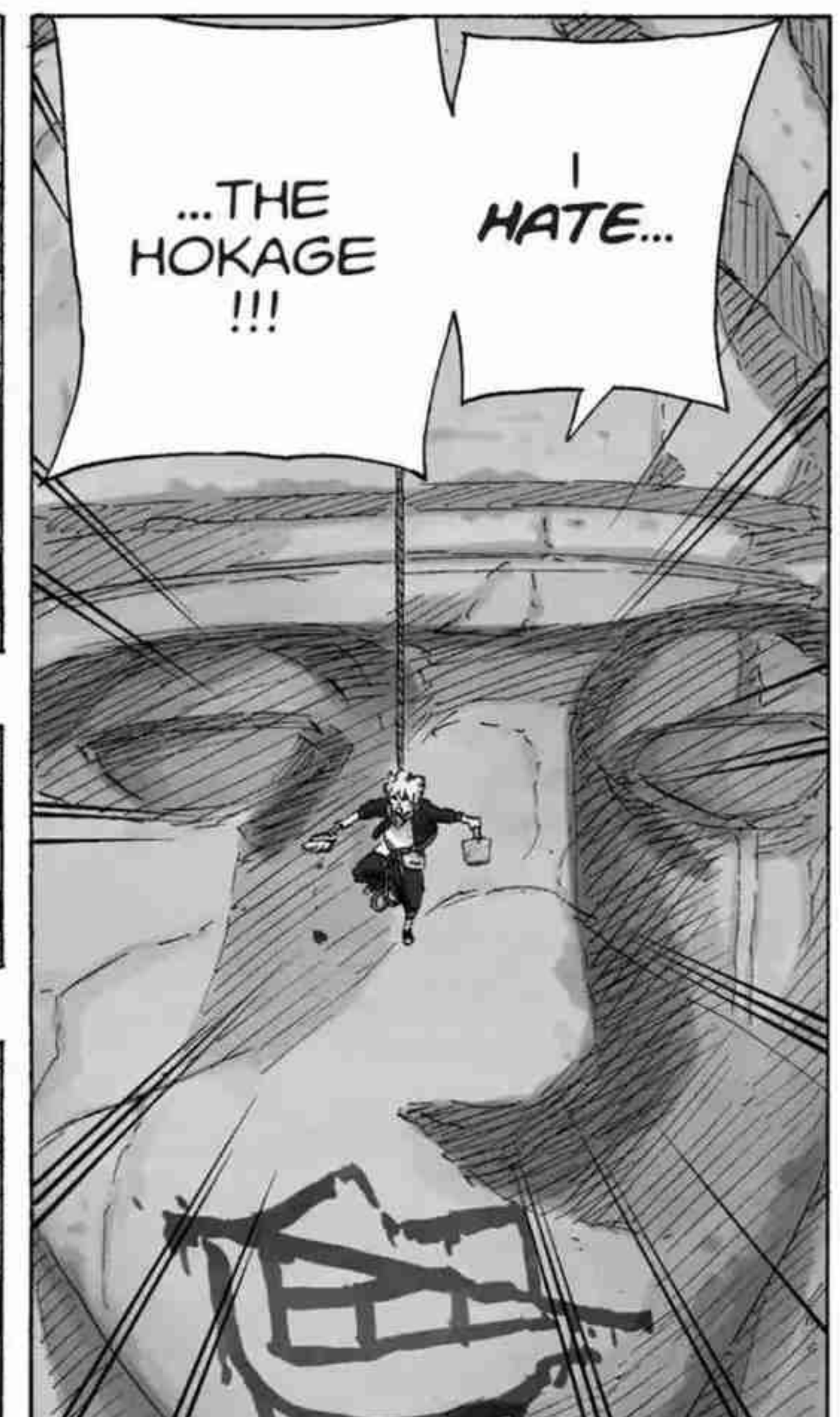
HEY, LET'S GET GOING.

ISN'T IT ALMOST TIME?

MM ...!

...BORUTO'S BEEN UP TO SOMETHING AGAIN, RIGHT?

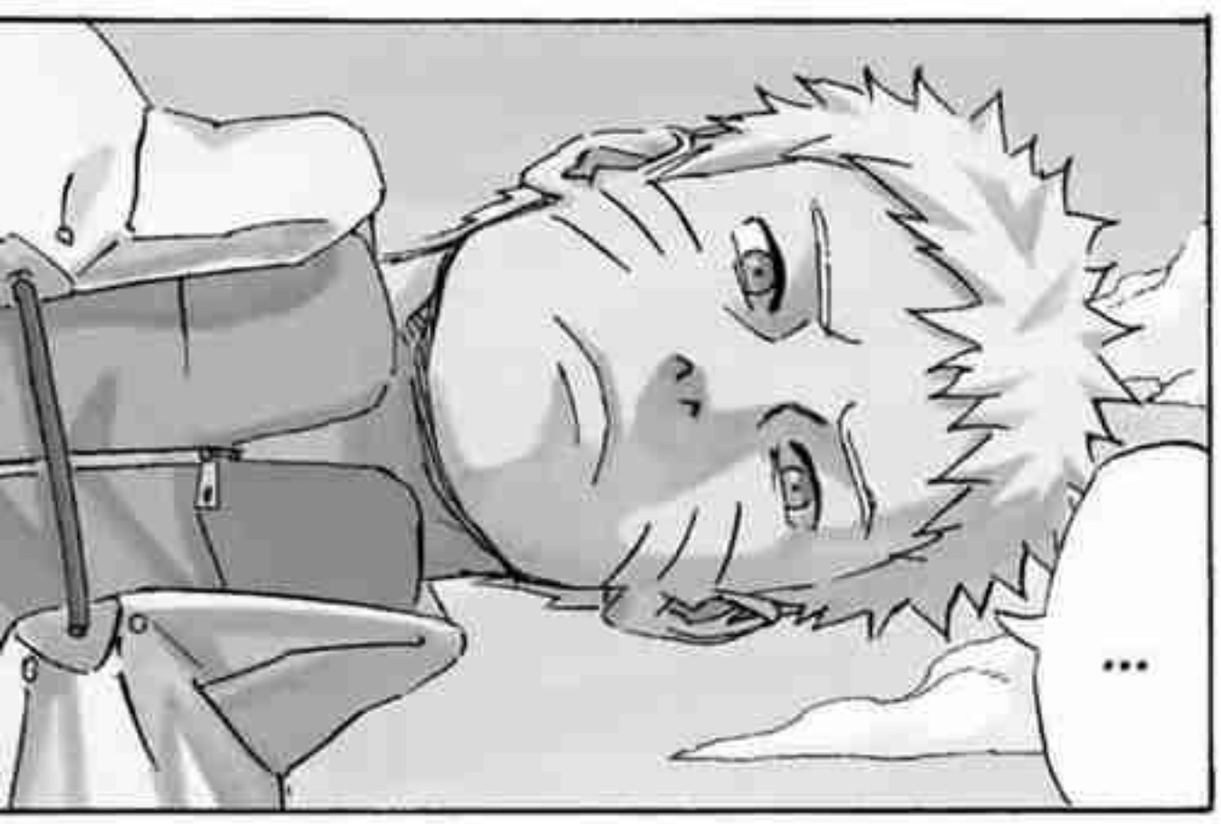
*IDIOT *WIENER *LECH *GEEZER *HAG



THUD

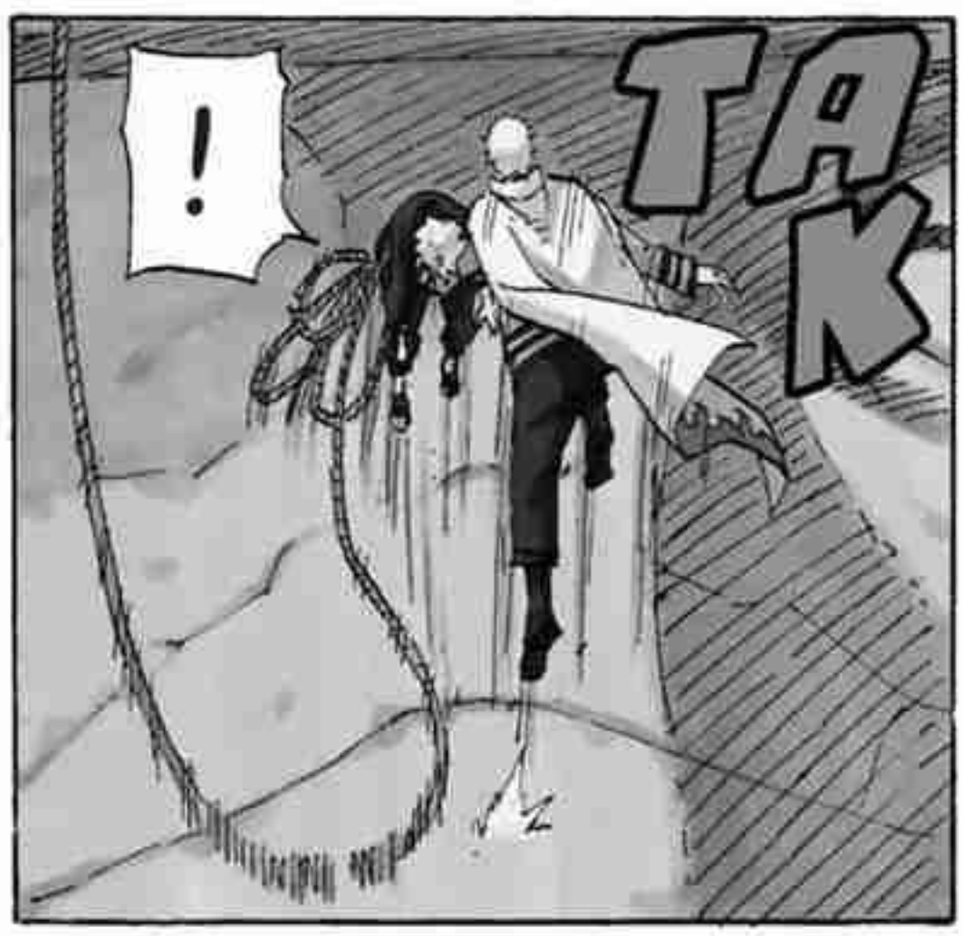
OH!

GEEZ! WILL YOU GIVE IT UP ALREADY, BORUTO?!!


!
...

THEN CLEAN IT UP WITH ME, OKAY?

DON'T BE SO HARD ON HIM.
HEY, LEAVE IT TO THAT BORUTO.
ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT DAY, NO LESS!


!
TAK

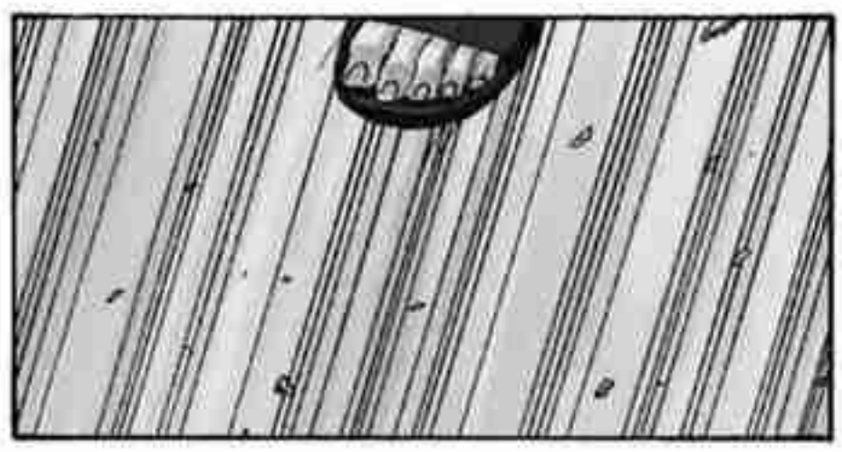
THE DAY WILL COME WHEN HE'LL UNDERSTAND, BUT UNTIL THEN, A JONIN MUST BE PATIENT WITH HIM...
YOU'RE ALWAYS TOO KIND TO HIM, MASTER IRUKA...
...KONOHA-MARU.

HE'LL DO ANY-THING...
...TO GET ATTENTION FROM HIS BUSY FATHER, EVEN MISCHIEF.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I CAN'T BE PA JUST TO YOU.

BORU-TO...

ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS VILLAGE ARE LIKE FAMILY TO ME NOW.

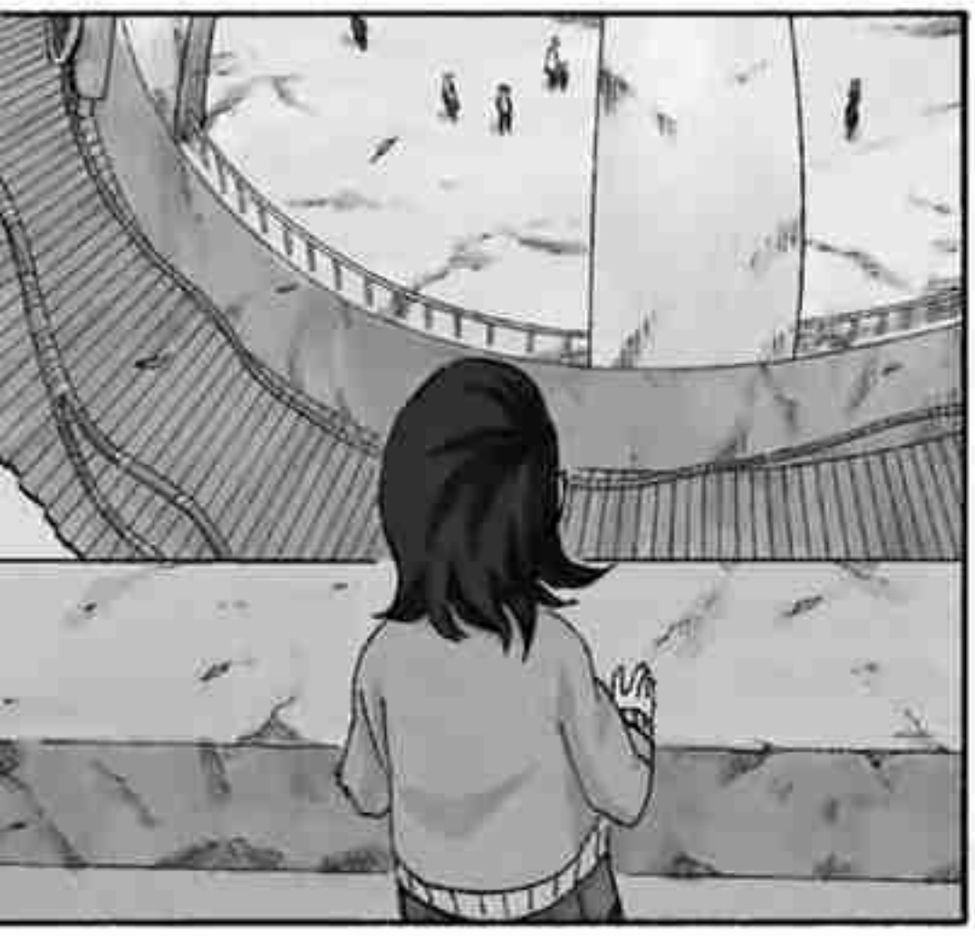


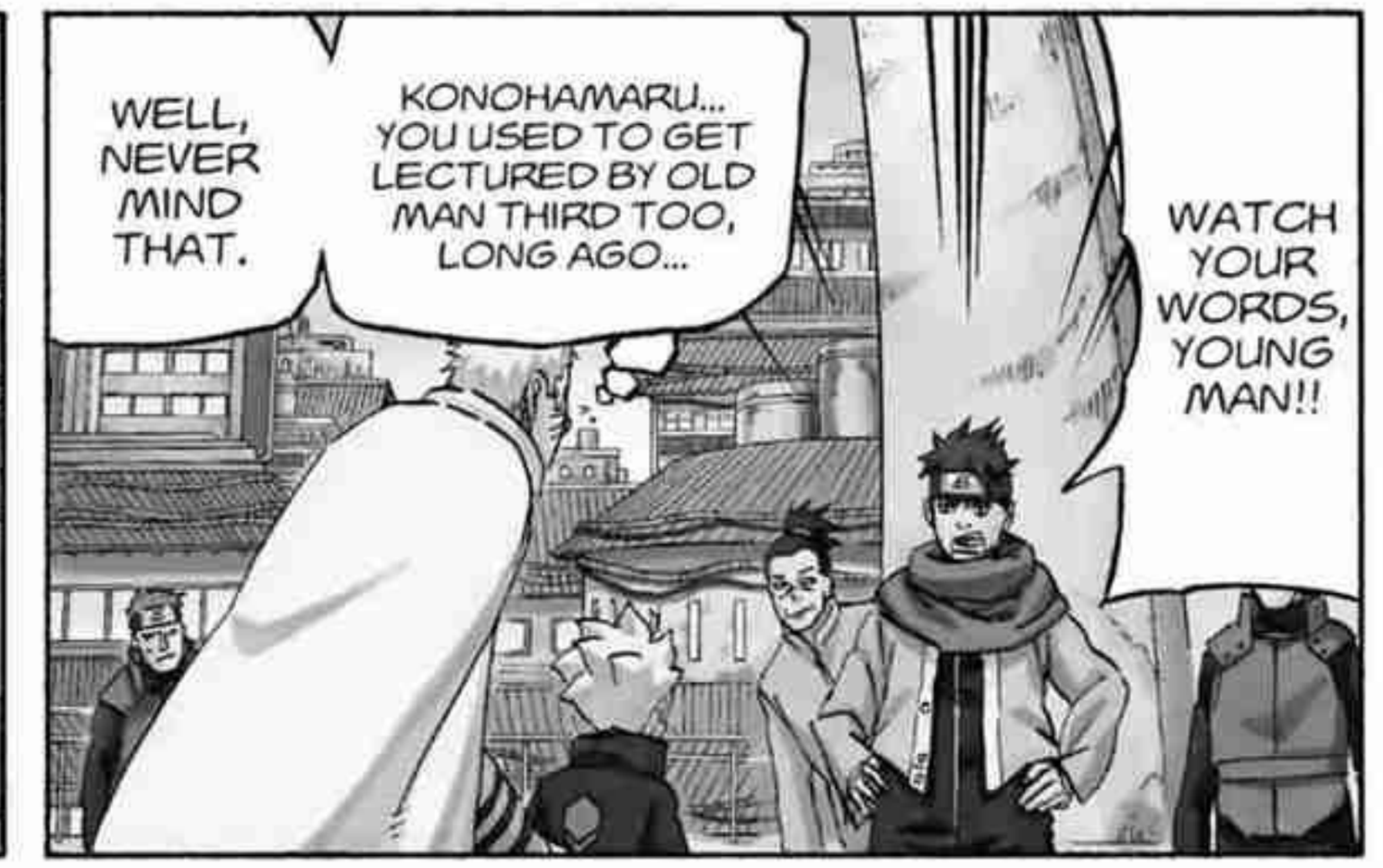
YOU'RE HERE TOO, MASTER KONOHAMARU? WHAT OVERKILL...

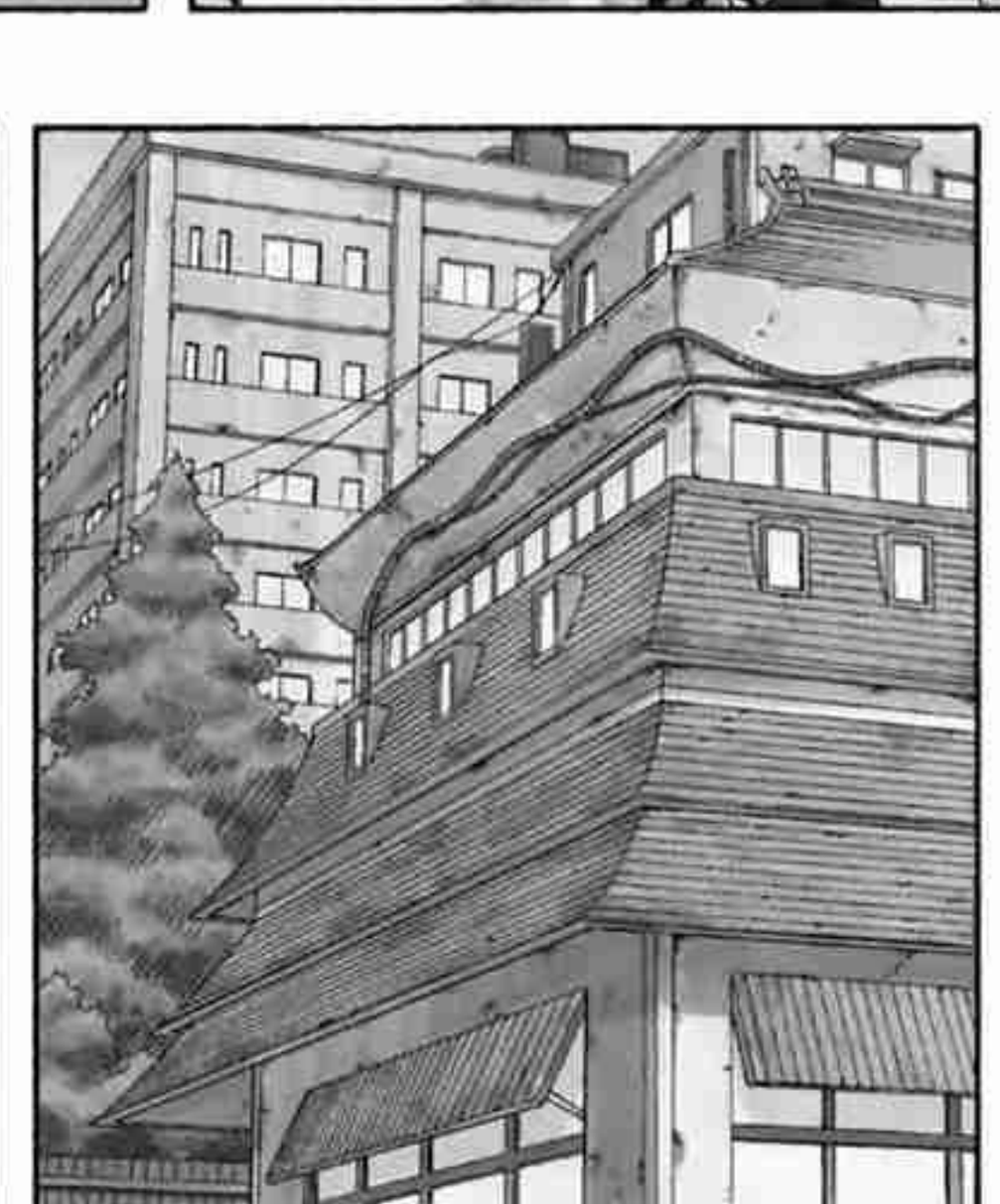
HOW DARE YOU DISRESPECT YOUR FATHER'S STANDING AND POSITION!!

I SAW THAT SHURIKEN IN YOUR LEFT HAND!!

HEY, BORU-TO!!







HUH? WAS IT BORUTO AGAIN?
BOYS ARE SOOO...
MAMA...
... STUPID.

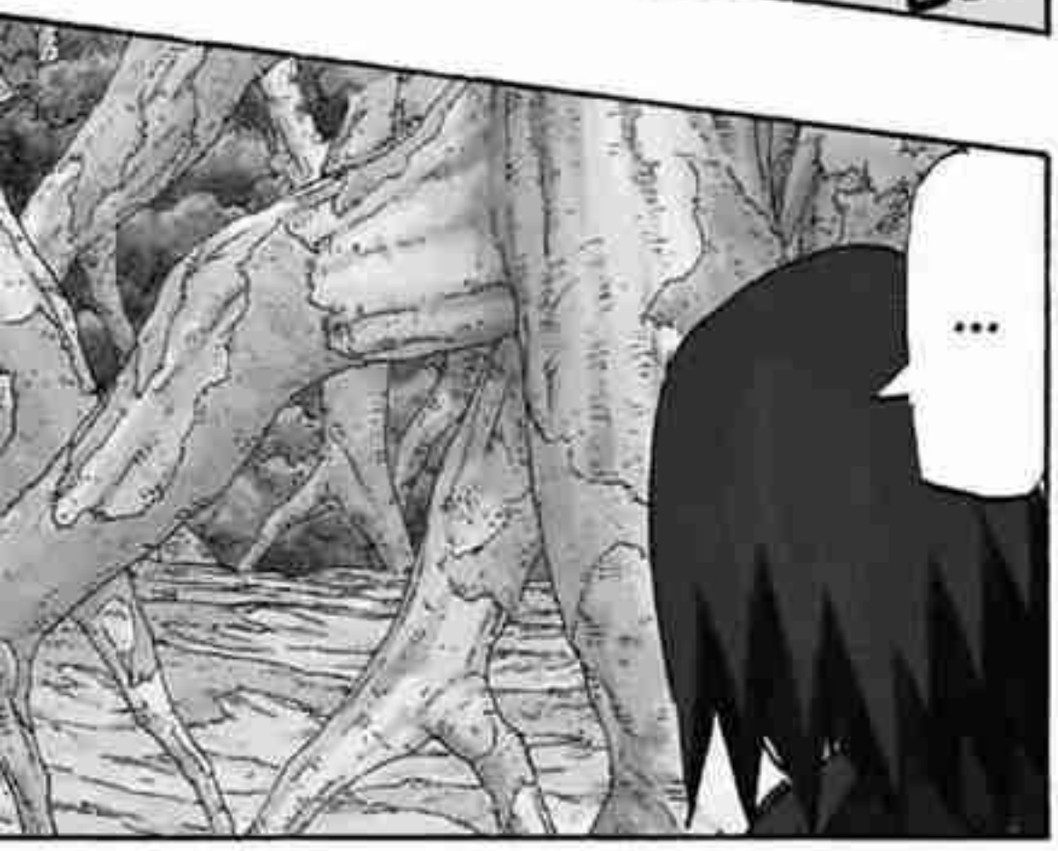
OH! WELCOME HOME, SARADA.

...

...WE'RE BOTH TOTALLY OH, YEAH!
WHEN IT COMES TO DADS...

...KINDA SIMILAR TO ME IN SOME WAYS TOO...
WELL, HE IS... ...
SMILE

KLOK


...

MUST'VE IMAGINED IT...
WHIRL

!
TURN

TIP

...AND GET STARTED, SHALL WE...

SORRY I'M LATE!

LET'S CAN THE SMALL TALK...

WE ALL KNOW HOW BUSY EACH OF US IS... CUT HIM SOME SLACK.

NOW, NOW, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

MY WORDS EXACTLY.

...AND THE HOST VILLAGE IS TARDY? WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!

WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE...

I HEREBY CONVENE THE GOKAGE COUNCIL!

ALL RIGHT!

ZZZ... ZZZ...

Number 700: Uzumaki Naruto!!

アホ

*FOOL

クソオヤジ

*STUPID DAD

...HOKAGE?

IT WAS SEALED AWAY INSIDE A SHINOBI CHILD WHO, OVER TIME, BEFRIENDED AND CAME TO COLLABORATE WITH THE FOX.
ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE LIVED A FOX SPIRIT WITH NINE TAILS.
THIS SHINOBI YOUTH WHO BORE THE FOX SPIRIT WAS THE SON OF THE FOURTH HOKAGE, AND WAS HIMSELF CALLED THE SEVENTH HOKAGE...
THEN BEFELL A NEW CALAMITY, THE REVIVING OF TEN TAILS. BUT THE SHINOBI CHILD MATURED INTO A SHINOBI YOUTH, BECAME ONE WITH THE FOX SPIRIT AND THE SHINOBI CLANS, AND SEALED TEN TAILS AWAY.